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Magha 8, 1897 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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CONTENTS

No. 15, Wednesday, January 28, 1976/Magha 8, 1897 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Oral Answers to Questions :	
*Starred Questions Nos. 286, 288 to 292, 295 to 297, 299, 302 and 303	1—33
Written Answers to Questions :	
Starred Questions Nos. 287, 293, 294, 298, 300, 301, 304 and 305	33—42
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1300 to 1395	
Papers laid on the Table	42—125
Messages from Rajya Sabha	125—131
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions—	
Fifty-ninth Report presented	132
Public Accounts Committee—	
Hundred and Ninety-first Report presented	132
Estimates Committee—	
Eighty-seventh Report and Minutes presented	132—133
Constitution (Thirty-second) Amendment Bill—	
Extension of time for presentation of Report of Joint Committee	133
Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill—	
Extension of time for presentation of Report of Joint Committee	133—134
Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Bill—*Introduced.*	134—136
Statutory Resolution Re. Disapproval of Press Council (Repeal) Ordinance, 1975 and Press Council (Repeal) Bill—	
Motion to consider the Bill—	
Shri Erasmo de Sequeira	136—140
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla	140—145
Shri Saroj Mukherjee	145—150
Shri Anantrao Patil	150—157
Shri S. M. Banerjee	157—161
Shri Surendra Mohanty	162—165
Shri P. G. Mavalankar	165—170

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

	COLUMNS
Clauses 2 to 5 and 1	179
Motion to Pass, as amended—	
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla	170—175
Shri Ramavatar Shastri	180-181
Statutory Resolution Re. Disapproval of Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Ordinance, 1975 and Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill—	
Motion to consider the Bill—	
Shri Erasmo de Sequeira	181—186
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla	186—190
Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya	190—194
Shri C. M. Stephen	194—198
Shri H. N. Mukerjee	198—207
Shri N. K. P. Salve	207—212
Shri Virendra Agarwal	212—217
Shri B. R. Shukla	217-218
Shri P. G. Mavalankar	218—223
Shri M.C. Daga	223—226
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	237
Motion to pass, as amended—	
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla	225—238
Shri S. M. Banerjee	238—242
Statutory Resolution Re. Disapproval of Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Ordinance, 1975 and Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Bill—	
Motion to consider the Bill—	
Shri Erasmo de Sequeira	242—246
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla	246—257
Shri S. M. Banerjee	257—260
Shri C. K. Chandrappan	260—263
Shri R. S. Pandey	263—266
Shri Saroj Mukherjee	266—271
Shri B. R. Shukla	271—275
Shri H. N. Mukerjee	277—278
Re. Business of the House	275- 276

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, January 28, 1976/Magha 8, 1897 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Re-demarcation of Areas for Central Subsidy

*286 SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to re-demarcate areas eligible for 15 per cent. Central subsidy; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is reviewing the working of the Central subsidy scheme in the context of the overall growth-centre approach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An overall review of the impact of subsidy schemes in selected backward areas has been undertaken. It is only after this completed, that the strategy for development of backward areas will be finalised keeping in view the suggestion of growth centre approach.

SHRI ANNASHEB GOTKHINDE: So far as the dispersal of industries to the backward and under-developed areas of the States are concerned, in the light of experience gained, the State Governments suggested the growth centre approch with a view to developing certain growth centres in each of the under-developed and backward areas in the State, according to the criteria laid down by the Planning Commission. May I know whether the over-all review was undertaken and, if so, how long it will take to complete the process of review.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: On this question of the development of backward areas a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Shri P. C. Nayak, Industries Secretary of the Maharashtra Government. The Report of the Committee and also the review carried out by the Ministry will be available shortly. After the receipt of the report of the Committee, this question will be considered in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. Since this has been approved by the National Development Council before taking any final decision the NDC would also be consulted.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: How long will it take?

MR. SPEAKER: He said "very shortly".

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: I will bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the discussions held at the 33rd meeting of the S.S.I. Board where the hon. Minister of Industries said that the Government was planning to dispense with the practice of giving incentives to industries in metropolitan cities with a view to encouraging dispersal of industries into the rural and backward areas. I want to say that there are some districts which are not

declared as backward; they are supposed to be forward, or not so backward. But there are some regions in those districts which are backward. It has been stated that all the so-called backward areas or regions are not altogether devoid of infra-structure facilities necessary for the growth of industries. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether while deciding this strategy, this particular aspect would be taken into consideration and whether industries would be located in those areas, especially in the drought-prone areas which are full of development potential, where the infra-structure facilities are available Secondly, instead of taking the district as the unit, will they take a tehsil as a unit while deciding this strategy?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already stated in my earlier answer that on all these questions the report of the Naik Committee for the development of the backward areas, whether they are in developed or developing States, will be taken into consideration and a decision will be taken.

श्री नवल किशोर सिन्हा : यह जानकर प्रसन्नता हुई कि सरकार पिछडे क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए एक नये अप्रोच पर विचार कर रही है। गांवों मे नये शहरी क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए सरकार की योजना है, उन मे एक विकास केन्द्र की योजना है और एक जिसे ग्रोथ सेटर कहते है उस की तथा मार्केटिंग यार्ड के विकास की योजना भी सरकार की है। क्या सरकार इस नये अप्रोच पर विचार करते हुए इस बात पर ध्यान रखेगी कि जहा जहां मार्केटिंग सैटर वर्ल्ड बैंक के द्वारा ऋण ले कर बनाया जा रहा है वहां विकास केन्द्र की स्थापना हो और यह जो कैपिटल सब्सिडी है वह उन्ही क्षेत्रो को दी जाय ताकि उस क्षेत्र का सम्यक रूप से विकास हो सके और गांवों मे रोजगार के तथा अन्य सुविधाओं के नये क्षेत्रों का निर्माण हो सके।

श्री ए० पी० शर्मा : जी हां इस बात पर विचार करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों से भी उन की राय मागी गई है और जो मार्केटिंग फैसिलिटीज स्माल स्केल प्रोडक्ट्स के लिए जरूरी है उन के लिए भी मार्केटिंग सैंटर की स्थापना करने की कोशिश की जा रही है।

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार अभी माननीय मत्री जी ने बताया है कि पिछड़े क्षेत्रो के लिए सरकार विशेष रूप से ध्यान दे रही है वहा पर उद्योग धन्धे बढाने के लिए लेकिन अभी पिछले समय मे ऐसा देखा गया है कि हिन्दुस्तान के जितने जिले पिछड़े घोषित किए गए हैं उन जिलो मे उद्योग धन्धे खोले नही गए है ; मैं अपने क्षेत्र की बात तो कह सकता हू कि वहा पर कोई छोटा उद्योग नही खोला गया है। तो क्या सरकार अपनी लाइसेंसिग की नीति मे कोई सशोधन करने जा रही है जिस से कि जो उद्योगपति लाइसेंस लेना चाहे उस को पहले लाइसेस उस क्षेत्र के लिए दिया जाये जो कि पिछड़े क्षेत्र है बजाय ऐसी जगह के जहा पहले से उद्योग धन्धे है।

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): We have seen that in spite of a large number of districts being declared as backward, except for giving them a name, there has not been much of development. So, the idea of backward area development taking all factors into consideration is under consideration, and I hope we will come

up shortly with our proposals to see that greater attention is paid to backward area development, if necessary by even changing the licensing system.

Utilisation of Capacity in Wagon Building Units

*288. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for slow progress in wagon building units;

(b) the action taken by Government to utilize the capacity fully in wagon units during the last three years; and

(c) the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) to (c). Absence of adequate progress in the wagon-building units is principally attributable to unremunerative orders, under-utilisation of capacities, uneven supply of certain components and resultant paucity of working capital. Government has been trying to ensure that the level of orders on the Industry is kept at the minimum sustenance level and increased progressively to a level at which the operations will be viable. Government has also been trying to rationalise the wagon prices. The wagon units have been trying to diversify their production in order to achieve greater utilisation of installed capacity. As a result of these steps, there has been increase in wagon production in the first nine months of 1975-76 as compared to the relative period in 1974-75. As a result of diversification, the units are also able to sustain themselves despite contraction of wagon orders in relation to installed capacity, although they are finding it extremely difficult to do so.

Strenuous efforts are being made to procure export orders for wagon and coaches.

SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: No doubt Government has taken some action to utilise the un-utilised capacity in the wagon building units, but the achievments so far are not up to the mark, or rather disappointing. This would be quite evident if we compare the production figures of the units in recent years with the figures before 1966 after which the recession started in railway orders. As a result, some of the units have closed down, some are on the verge of closure and some are working much below their utilisation capacity and are suffering heavy financial loss. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister what further concrete steps they have taken or are going to take in this connection, so that the units might work to full capacity and a lot of people who are apprehending retrenchment may be saved.

SHRI T. A. PAI: Sir, we had till 1958 imported all wagons in this country. When the wagon industry came into existence, the installed capacity was 31,000 wagons per year. I am sure that the production all these years would have saved the country about Rs. 950 crores by way of import. Since the monopoly buyer is the railways, the needs of the railways have been varying depending upon their financial resources. At present, our capacity for wagon industry is being utilized only to the extent of 33 per cent. Though we have been trying to get orders for export, it is not so easy, because the freight charges from India are extremely heavy. Under the circumstances, since the majority of the wagon units are in the public sector, we are trying to coordinate with the railways to secure maximum orders and utilize this capacity, and the surplus capacity, we are trying to diversify into other products.

SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: So for as I know, Government, in order to overcome the present difficulty and to utilize the capacity of wagon building units, to which I have already referred,

has entered into some contracts for the supply of wagons to foreign countries like Yugoslavia and Poland. I want to know what is the outcome of these contracts, that is, whether the contracts are executed; and whether any profit has been derived out of such contracts? We find in some of the newspapers that instead of profit, we have incurred heavy losses. So, I want to know why this sort of bargain was entered into, why the supply of wagons is so unremunerative and why they cannot be supplied to foreign countries at a profit? What is the amount of such heavy losses incurred by these units?

SHRI T. A. PAI: We have fulfilled the contract for export to Poland. With Yugoslavia, we got into some diffculty, because, at that time, we had power shortage in West Bengal where most of these units are located. We have secured these orders with the result that we could not keep up our commitment in time. There was no escalation clause in the agreement, because it was not anticipated that there would be oil crisis and the prices went up. We had negotiated with Yugoslavia to give up the order, because we were losing by exporting heavily or fulfilling these commitments. We have succeeded in getting this cancelled also substantially. From all these point of view and in the light of the experience of the past, we cannot rely very heavily on export of wagons unless we take all these factors into consideration in future.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: This is a very happy news.

(Interruptions)

The hon. Minister has said that we have stopped the import, so far as wagons are concerned.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I was saying that till 1958, we used to import. Now, we are capable of making them.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Apart from the countries which he has mentioned, may I know how many countries have placed orders including Russia and what is the position of the supply?

SHRI T. A. Pai: The only countries to which we have supplied wagons so far are Poland, Iran, East African Railways, Yugoslavia and Malaysia. We have not received orders from others, though offers have been submitted or are under negotiation with a number of countries, including Poland, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Philippines, Australia Algeria, Indonesia, etc. While we may be competitive in making wagons, so far as costs are concerned, because of our available capacity, the freight charges make a lot of difference, and therefore, sometimes freight charges more than the cost of the wagons themselves.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There was a similar question dealing with the same subject yesterday addressed to the Railway Ministry As far as I could understand, the Railway Ministry complains that in spite of this under-utilisation of capacity here, they still find that the orders which they have placed on the wagon building units are not being fulfilled on time, that there is a back-log and, therefore, the Railway Ministry feels that it is not worthwhile placing very big additional orders unless the back-log is made up. Is this an answer, if I understood it correctly, not somewhat contradictory to what the Minister for Industry is saying when he admits and, I think there is a fact that there is a lot of under-utilised capacity. I would like to know from him what exactly is the position, whether there is really a big back-log of pending orders which these concerns are not able to fulfil in spite of there being under-utilised capacity.

Secondly, there was a proposal some time ago, and it was stated in the

House also that all the wagon building units were going to be integrated into a single wagon building corporation or something like that so that orders would be more equitably distributed between different units. But we are not hearing anything more about that. What happened to that proposal?

SHRI T. A. PAI: It is true that the wagon building industry has a back-log of 14,000 wagons for which the Railways had placed an order before 1972-73. But the Railways have not been willing to pay the escalated cost. Therefore, we are negotiating with them. There is no point in placing new orders unless we are able to see that we do not make losses. It is true that we have taken them in the public sector but we cannot afford to run them on a loss. We are negotiating with the Railways. There are small differences and, I hope, they will be settled. In the meanwhile, we are not stopping the wagon building

So far as the other question asked by the hon Member is concerned, the Wagon India has been constituted. It is supervising the work of all the wagon building units. Because most of the wagon building units today also have to do other types of manufacture, they could not be integrated in the sense that we would have one wagon building industry. We have the Wagon Corporation of India in the public sector which is supervising the placing of orders and getting them executed also.

Setting up of a separate Unit in the Central Electricity Authority for Power Distribution

*289. SHRI K. M. 'MADHUKAR': Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to set up a separate unit in Central Electricity Authority for power distribution; and

(b) If so, the broad outlines thereof?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख). विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख). विद्युत प्रणाली का अध्ययन करने के लिए और पारेषण व्यवस्था के सम्बन्ध में प्रणाली की योजना बनाने हेतु मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांत बनाने के लिए केन्द्रीय बिजली प्राधिकरण में हाल ही में एक पृथक संगठन बनाया गया है। यह संगठन क्षेत्रीय ग्रिड प्रणालियों और क्षेत्रीय भार पारेषण केन्द्रों (रीजनल लोड डिस्पैच स्टेशनो) के प्रचालन लिए योजना तयार करेगा और क्षेत्रीय बिजली बोर्डों के कार्यों में इन बोर्डों का मार्गदर्शन करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा करेगा। इस विद्युत प्रणाली संगठन को चरण-चरण रूप में और सशक्त बनाने का प्रस्ताव है ताकि यह उच्च वोल्टता वाली पारेषण प्रणालियों और वितरण योजना के बारे में अध्ययन कर सके।

श्री कमला सिंह 'मधुकर' : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में द्रविड़ प्राणायाम करने का प्रयत्न किया है। मैंने स्पष्ट प्रश्न किया है कि क्या बिजली के वितरण की आवश्यकता को देखकर केन्द्रीय बिजली अधिकरण में बिजली वितरण की कोई अलग इकाई कायम

करने जा रहे हैं ? आपने अपने बयान में कबूल किया है कि फेज्ड मैनर में आगे हो जायेगा, मैं स्पष्टतः जानना चाहता हूं क्या मंत्रालय इस बात की आवश्यकता समझता है कि बिजली के वितरण के लिए एक अलग इकाई केन्द्रीय बिजली अधिकरण के अन्तर्गत कायम होनी चाहिए ? यदि इसको आप कबूल करते है तो फिर कौन सी दिक्कतें हैं जिनकी वजह से इस इकाई का निर्माण नही कर पा रहे है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : मैंने सभा पटल पर जो विवरण रखा है उसमे बताया है कि इसकी आवश्यकता महसूस की जाती है और साथ ही यह भी बताया है कि सेन्ट्रल एलेक्ट्रिसिटी एथारिटी अर्थात केन्द्रीय बिजली विकास प्राधिकरण मे इसके लिए व्यवस्था की गई है तथा एक सदस्य की इसके लिए उसमे नियुक्ति की गई है जिनका काम बिजली के वितरण की व्यवस्था को विशेष रूप से देखना होगा।

श्री कमला मिश्र 'मधुकर' : आपने अपने बयान में कहा है

"This power systems organisation is proposed to be further strengthened in a phased manner ...."

तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं इस फेज्ड मैनर की कोई कालावधि है, कोई टाइम बाउन्ड प्रोग्राम है या फेज्ड मैनर अनन्त काल तक चलने वाली प्रक्रिया है ?

प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : जनवरी, 1975 से केन्द्रीय बिजली प्राधिकरण में एक सदस्य नियुक्त किया गया है और विभिन्न राज्यो मे सारे देश की बिजली को जोड़ने, एक ग्रिड बनाने की व्यवस्था है जिसके लिए कार्यवाही शुरू की गई है।

जहां तक राज्यों में ग्रिड बनाने की बात है उसमें काफी प्रगति हुई है लेकिन सारे देश के लिए एक बिजली ग्रिड बनाने में समय लग सकता है क्योंकि उस सदस्य ने अभी उसके लिए अध्ययन शुरू किया है केन्द्रीय बिजली प्राधिकरण में, इसलिए निश्चित रूप से कहना कठिन है कि इतने वर्षों के भीतर यह काम पूरा हो जायेगा। फिर भी इस काम में काफी तेजी से प्रगति हो रही है।

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: In the statement of the Hon'ble Minister there is the sentence "A separate organisation has recently been created in the Central Electricity Authority for undertaking power system studies and framing guidelines for system planning in respect of the transmission network". May I know if they have decided upon certain guidelines and, if so, what are they and when were they sent to the State Electricity Boards?

PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD: These guidelines have been sent to the State Electricity Boards and, to name only a few functions of the M(PS), they are: (1) to evolve criteria and guidelines for bringing about integrated cooperation of the State and business systems and for the inter-regional transfer of power—and for this purpose, the Member (Power), State Electricity would be in-charge of the Electricity Boards and regional load transmission at different load centres; (2) Planning of the major transmission network required for the country, consistent with the national power policy and integrated working of the All-India grids; (3) rural electrification; (4) reduction of system losses (5) planning and implementation of measures to slacken load curbs in different systems and so on.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: Since a majority of the State Electricity Boards are suffering for want of trained personnel to manage and maintain the various power stations properly, may I know what steps are being taken by

the Government to set up more training institutes in the country for the operators—engineers and the like—to improve the existing technical talent for better working of these power stations which are still under chaotic conditions?

PROF. SIDDHESWAR PRASAD: We have already two such training centres and we have decided to created two more such training centres where engineers who are engaged in transmisssion and who are engaged in construction and operation of power stations are proposed to be trained. The States have responded favourably.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Despite all the guidelines and the explanation of the Minister, it is not clear how Government proposes to undo the imbalance that has been created in backward States like Bihar where whatever energy is produce cannot be distributed for want of a distribution channel. How does the government propose to remedy this?

PROF. SIDDHESWAR PRASAD: For specially backward States like Bihar, we have taken special care. A Committee was set up to look into the causes of deficiencies. The Committee has submitted its report and we have asked the Government of Bihar and the Bihar State Electricity Board to take suitable steps so that these measures are carried out.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: I know from the Government if they have any proposal to take over the generation of electricity from the State Governments to the Central Government since, because of the petty differences among the provinces, the initiation of the muti-purpose hydro-electric schemes have been delayed with the result that the prices have gone up three-fold — if you compare the prices when the proposals were taken up and what they are today.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): This would be a major change in the entire distribution responsibility as between the Centre and the States in respect of power. I don't think the States are at all willing to consider this and I don't know whether public opinion also is at the moment in favour of this. What we are doing is that we stepping up the proportion of Central generation in each of the regions so that we will have some say in the equitable distribution of power and transfer of power within the regions. We think this is feasible and we are trying to do it. So far as the inter-State problems between the various States are concerned, these are being sorted out, as my Hon. friend knows and as and when these problems come before us, we sit down and try to sort them out so that stable solutions which are more or less acceptable to everyone can be found.

Protection to Ancillary Small Scale Industry

*290. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present the ancillary Small Scale Industry is getting a raw deal at the hands of the large Scale sector and payments for the supplies made are delayed by six months to two years; and

(b) whether Government propose to give statutory protection to the ancillary Small Scale Industry for prompt payment and against exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) A few instances have come to the notice of the Small Industries Development Organisation where the payments to small scale ancillary industrial units have been delayed by large industries.

(b) The Government have proposals to make modifications with the framework of the Industries (Development

and Regulation) Act, 1951, in order to assist small scale ancillary industries.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that large industries do not place orders on the ancillary industries in their areas, for example, HEC at Ranchi, TELCO, TISCO and other companies at Jamshedpur and Bokaro Steel, and if, by any chance, any order is placed, they do not make payments against the supplies made, and if so, whether the Government would give directions to the large industries to make the payments within a month of the supply or pay interest at Bank Rate?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: We have the figure of about 22,000 and odd ancillary industries working in the country, and only in 12 cases, our attention has been drawn to delay in payments. For expediting these payments in various cases, instructions have been issued to the concerned people to expedite the payments as early as possible, and in all these twelve cases, except one or two cases, either the payment orders have been made or they have said that they are going to make the payments shortly.

Regarding the specific question about placing orders by the industries like Tatas and Bokaro, in Bokaro there are about 60 small scale ancillaries; I had been there recently; there was no complaint in Bokaro.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: May I know whether the Government would make it compulsory for the large industries, both in the public sector and in the private sector, to place at least 25 per cent of the orders on the ancillary industries in the small scale industrial areas and if so, what steps Government propose to take in this respect?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: My hon. friend should know that, in the case of the ancillaries registered with the larger scale industries, there is the obligation on the part of the larger scale industries to buy a minimum of 50 per cent of their products. Therefore, we have gone above 25 per cent.

DR. RANEN SEN: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that, because of the sustaining power of the big industries and the small scale sector suffering from that weakness, the large scale sector often takes resort to paying low rates to the small scale sector, and if so, may I know what steps Government propose to take to save the small scale sector from this onslaught of the big industries?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: There is no question of paying low rates. The rates are fixed, and according to the fixed rates, they make payments. In some cases, if there has been any delay, that has been brought to our notice and we have taken steps.

DR. RANEN SEN: The big industries fix the rates and the small scale industries have to compete amongst themselves. The small scale industries sometimes suffer due to the fixed rates fixed by the big business.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The rates are not fixed by the big business or the larger scale industries. In the public sector, they are fixed by the Bureau of Public Enterprises. Therefore, according to those rates, the payments are made.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: These Ancillary industries are set up with the intention of creating more employment potential in every State. But there are complaints that the ancillary industries are not coming up in the same area where the big industries are coming up. Do Government take steps to see that the ancillary industries also come up in the same area where big industries come up?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: The hon. Member is quite correct when he observes that ancillary industries should be set up in that area where the large-scale industries are situated, as far

as possible. I can assure him that, in this respect, care is being taken. The Scooters India at Lucknow is a very good example; already the Scooters India have set up 29 ancillaries themselves, and they are going to set up some more, bringing the number to 50.

Autonomous Body for T.V. Operations

*291. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Wil the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an autonomous body for T.V. operations; and

(b) if so, the composition of the proposed body?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) and (b). It has been decided to separate television from All India Radio. The New organisation will be known as "Doordarshan" (Television India) and will be an attached office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, headed by a Director General.

श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल : बड़ी प्रसन्नता की बात है कि दूरदर्शन नामक संस्था की स्थापना कर रहे हैं । मैं जानाना चाहता हूं कि कब तक आप इस को कागम करेंगे ?

श्री धर्मवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, इस में यह निर्णय ले लिया गया है और अगले एक, दो महीने मे इस की स्थापना हो जायगी ।

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: We are happy to know that the Government have decided to separate Television from All India Radio and set up a separate organization for Television. This was a long-awaited decision. After this division, it would now be necessary that we should have more television centres in the country as well as more studios for production. With this, the people should also be in a position to purchase television sets. May I know from the Minister, if the Government have chalked out some plans to have more centres and more studios and secondly has the Industries Department been requested to ask the manufacturers of televisions to reduce the prices of the television sets?

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: Sir, the supplementary is outside the scope of the question, but I would like to clarify that this organization Television India (Doordarshan) will not be an autonomous body, it will be an attached office of the Ministry of Information and Broadcating.

One of the reasons, why the Television has been separated from All India Radio is that we want to have faster growth in the field of television. But that will, of course, depend on the resources situation. Technically, we are equipped for a very fast growth as far as television is concerned, and if the resources are available we would definitely go fast.

As far the cost of television set is, we are interested in reducing its price, but that depends on various fiscal measures on which I cannot say anything now.

आदिवासियों को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का कार्यक्रम

*292. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा** : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या आदिवासियों को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के बारे में सरकार की कोई योजना है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी क्रियान्विति के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Sub-Plans are being formulated for areas of tribal concentration which will lead to the economic betterment of Adivasis and thereby help them towards self-reliance. In the sub-plans productive programmes such as minor irrigation, agricultural inputs, horticulture, forest processing industries, cottage and small scale industries and other family based programmes are being given maximum weightage to enable families to augment their incomes. In order to check exploitation, emphasis is laid on the completion of land records, records of rights of tribals in forests, and debt redemption. Provision is also being made for credit and marketing facilities.

SHRI M. C DAGA: It has been mentioned in the reply that sub-plans are being formulated for areas of tribal concentration which will lead to the economic betterment of Adivasis.

मेहरबानी कर के आप यह बतलाइए कि आप ने आज तक आदिवासियों की जो योजनायें बनायी है और करोड़ों रु० की धनराशि खर्च की है, उन योजनाओं में आप को असफलतायें क्यों मिली ? और उसके कारण आप ने यह जो सब-प्लान्स मांगी हैं तो मैं जानना चाहता हू कि किस किस स्टेट ने सब-प्लान्स कब पेश कर दी है और कौन-कौन से जिले हैं जिन के लिये सब-प्लान्स आयी है, तथा कितनी धनराशि आप ने मुकर्रर की है और कितनी राज्यों ने दी है और वह योजनायें कब आप के पास आयी है ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The sub-plans have been submitted by almost all the States and now they are in the various stages of examination and sanction. We hope, very soon they will be approved. As my hon. friend knows, Ministry of Home Affairs are the implementing authority for this. So far as the impact of these programmes is concerned, the programmes are making an impact. And in India today we are conscious that something has been done and if something more is to be done, it should not make us oblivious of the fact that something has also been achieved. But, of course, we have to go a long way because the backwardness is still very serious.

So far as the allocation of funds is concerned, as my hon. friend knows, the main thrust for these sub-plans is that the funds should mostly come from the State Plans themselves. The additional supplemental input will be of the order of Rs. 200 crores from the centre.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : प्रश्न का बड़ा गोलमाल जवाब दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आदिवासी कब तक आत्म-निर्भर हो जायेंगे ? आप ने अब तक कितनी धनराशि खर्च की है ? क्यों आपने सब-प्लान्स मांगी हैं, और किन किन राज्यों ने योजनायें नहीं दी हैं ? आप ने उत्तर दिया कि यह गृह मंत्रालय इमप्लीमेंट करना है, तो प्रश्न का उत्तर वही देते कि कब तक इमलीमेंटेशन हो जायगा। मेरा प्रश्न बिल्कुल सीधा है कि आदिवासी लोग कब तक आत्म-निर्भर हो जायेंगे, और उन योजनाओं के लिये आप ने कितनी धनराशि मुकर्रर की है और राज्य कितनी धनराशि देंगे ?

श्री आइ० के० गुजराल : अध्यक्ष जी, डागा जी सदन के पुराने और समझदार सदस्य हैं। यह मुझ से सवाल कर रहे हैं कि आदिवासी कब तक आत्म-निर्भर हो जायेंगे। यह खुद जानते हैं इस चीज को क्वान्टिफाई करना आसान नहीं होता है। हम सामाजिक उत्थान के ऐफ़र्ट कर रहे हैं और 20 सूत्री प्रोग्राम भी उसी दिशा में एक कदम है उस से भी

आदिवासियों पर असर पड़ेगा। अब कर्ज खत्म होंगे, बौन्डेड लेबर खत्म हो जाएगी, तो इन स्टेप्स का असर आदिवासियों पर जरूर पड़ेगा और आत्म-निर्भरता की तरफ़ एक कदम आगे बढ़ेगा। जो धनराशि खर्च की है उस से किसी हद तक फ़ायदा हुआ है। तजुर्बे के कुछ ओरियेन्टेशन की जरूरत महसूस की गई। इसलिये जो कमेटी बैठी उन्होंने यह कहा कि प्लान्स में नए किस्म का थ्रस्ट दिया जाय जिस की तरफ़ हमारा कदम उठा है। मैं ने यह कभी नहीं कहा कि गृह मंत्रालय इस बात को जानता है, वह इमप्लीमेंट जरूर करता है, लेकिन सवाल का जो जवाब मैं ने दिया है वही मुकम्मल जवाब है।

आप ने पूछा कि कितनी कामयाबी हुई है ? हमारी कोशिश यही है, खासकर इस प्लान में, कि अगर यह बुनियादी चीजें समाज उत्थान की शुरू हो जायें तो आत्म-निर्भरता जल्दी हो जायगी।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: You are aware that large areas of North Bengal are inhabited by Adivasis. I want to know from the Minister what concrete steps have been taken by Central Government for their upliftment and self-reliance.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The main point I was trying to drive home, as I said in my reply, was that planned development was initiated to solve their problems. Of course, concentrated efforts are being made in the tribal belt as whole and for that, an additive has been given.

So far as Bengal is concerned flow of funds from State Plan have been worked out. The likely assistance to Bengal tribal areas from the Central Fund of Rs. 200 crores have been arrived at. But the main thrust in the plan of last year, current year and the following year would be the allocation of monies for those schemes which benefit the tribal belt and also for such schemes which benefit the tribal people.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I have asked about North Bengal. What concrete steps have the government taken?

MR. SPEAKER: He has not got the details of that.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The question is with regard to enabling the Adviasis become self-reliant. In this connection, I would like to know—in some States some development goes on, e.g. Bihar—whether there is anything before the Government to bring about a situation where we have got some sort of an autonomous administration, say, some autonomous administrative unit comprising the Advasis of South Bihar, adjoining Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and some other areas so that they are made self-reliant at least at the local administrative level.

My second question is in regard to the culture and language which they represent. They are in a sort of seclusion in India. Whether the Central Government is proposing to set up a body to go into the research work in regard to their languages and culture which will ultimately enrich our culture and history?

With regard to the Bonded Labour Act, may I know how many persons have been arrested or detained under MISA or DIR who resorted to this sort of practice particularly the Adivasis—a small number of them have become usurers and money lenders.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as the preservation and advancement of the cultural life of the adivasis are concerned, my friend might like to know that there are eleven Tribal Research

institutes which are conducting studies in this regard. That is being taken care of.

For attainment of self-reliance, there should be an availability of infra-structure, agricultural inputs and rights to exploit minor forest produce. Besides all types of exploitation should be eliminated. He should get land for cultivation also. These are the projects on which we are concentrating now.

As far as detentions under MISA and DIR, I will need due notice.

Selection of a site at Cuddapah for A.I.R. Complex

*295. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected a site at Cuddapah to set up a permanent A.I.R. Complex there;

(b) if so, whether State Government have agreed to the selection;

(c) whether A.I.R. has taken possession of the site; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work will start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d): Does not arise.

SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: I am afraid that the Minister is not aware of the exact position. I know that the Station Director had come to select the site there. He tried to contact the District Collector and the State authorities to grant sanction of that site. I am surprised that the hon. Minister is not aware of this even.

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: I am fully aware of the situation. But inspection of a site of a proposed station does not mean that a decision has been taken to upgrade that station or to have a studio there. When we project our plans, naturally, we go to the areas where we think there might be the need to do so. The Engineers and the officers of All India Radio go and inspect things. As I said earlier, the site as such has not been selected because of constraints on resources at the moment.

Reorganisation of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

*296. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorganise Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T A. PAI): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) In view of the magnitude and multiplicity of the operations of BHEL, the process of reorganisation of the structure of the Company has to be a continuous process. Several measures have been taken during the last three years in this direction.

(b) Presently, BHEL has a Corporate Office and sixteen other Divisions. The Corporate Office consists of the Chairman and Managing Director assisted by two full-time functional Directors and supporting staff for marketing, research and company affairs. The Corporate Office is responsible for all policy-making which is centralised. Implementation is decentralised and is the responsibility of the

various Divisions, each of which is headed by a General Manager or a Deputy General Manager. These General Managers are assisted by supporting staff in the fields of production, finance, pesonnel, sales, materials management, planning, security and health. The sixteen Divisions include four manufacturing divisions at Bhopal, Hardwar, Hyderabad and Tiruchirapalli and two project divisions in charge of the Foundry Forge Plant being set up at Hardwar and the Transformer factory under construction at Jhansi. There is also an Oil Bigs Division attached to the Hydrabad unit. There are two research divisions, namely, R and D Division at Hyderabad and Engineering Systems and New Products Division at New Delhi; two divisions on commercial side, the Marketing and Sales Division and the Exports Division; and five service divisions namely Consultancy Services, Services and Spares, Power Projects, Acquisition and Mergers and Regional Operations.

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: I have gone through the statement and I have been very much disappointed to see that my question has not been answered properly. However, I would like to submit that the nature of the management of electronics has been well described in the Statement But the fact remains that the electronics industry is also.....

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking of electronics. But the question is about electricals. They are two different things. I think, you read the Statement and later on put the question.

Recovery of a High-Power Wireless Transmitter and Receiving Sets on the bank of Lodri River on Bhopal-Indore Road

*207. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of a high-power wireless transmitter and two receiving sets in July last year on the bank of Lodri River on Bhopal-Indore Road has been investigated further to ascertain the motive and the party behind the misadventure;

(b) the make of the transmitter and receiving sets; and

(c) whether the make determines C.I.A's hand behind it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These were manufactured in the U.S.A.

(c) Investigations are still continuing, no link with C.I.A. has been established so far.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: I want to know whether these wireless transmitters and receiving sets are available to each and everybody in American market.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: These were used in the Second World War and after the close of the Second World War they were sold in several countries including India. They were sold at Calcutta, Bombay and several other places where several individuals and institutions have purchased them.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: I want to know whether it is possible for a passenger either from air or sea to bring these sets with his luggage into this country.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: These transmitter sets have a radius of about 500 miles and these were recovered from the river on a previous clue by the arrest of some three persons, but we did not find any information as to any undesirable instances.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I would like to know whether in the subsequent investigations it was possible to identify the person or persons who had actually acquired by purchase or other means these transmitter sets and if so who are those persons and what action has been taken against them. I want to know whether actual investigations have also shown that these transmitter sets were actually being utilised for any illegal transmissions.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: On 11-7-75 3 persons were arrested by the police and they had in possession some equipments relating to transmitter. On that they have given information saying that they have stolen them from the palace of Dewas. Subsequently the Police interrogated the Maharaja and he denied any knowledge of it. 13 days later on 24-7-75 some transmitter and some other components were recovered in a riverbed and when it was examined the components and the previous articles found seemed to be fitting together and therefore both of them would form complete transmitter sets. Subsequently the Maharaja was arrested and of course later released on bail. A case has been registered and investigation is proceeding, but no use seems to have been made of it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I asked about the person or persons who acquired these sets. In the opinion of the Government is it this Maharaja of Dewas and if so why has he been released on bail instead of being held under MISA.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Subsequently also he was arrested under MISA and later again in the month of December he was released.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Security of the country is very important for security of the people of the country. He said that three individuals and certain institutions did keep such powerful transmitter and wireless sets. Has the Home Ministry got any direct or indirect supervision and control to check whether these are being used for the purpose for which they were bought or otherwise? Has such a sort of control or check being exercised by the Home Ministry or not?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Sir, the Ministry of Communications is incharge for enforcement and they have got district and other authorities to look into whether any clandestine use is being made which is liable to be prosecuted under Indian Telegraphs Act.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI: Sir, how is it a matter under the Ministry of Communications? It is an internal security matter and should be under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: This is under the Ministry of Communications because these are the offences under Indian Telegraphs Act.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I would like to know whether the Minister has established link between the fact that some political leaders of this country had been announcing publicly that they would use their own illegal transmitter and on 25th June at Ramlila Maidan a call was given to destroy the Delhi Station of All India Radio and the same was implemented on 27th June. I would like to know the link between that announcement and the finding of this transmitter. Secondly, from whom was this purchased, when and how? Further whether the Dewas Raja is some sort of a subsidiary to the Gwalior State which has been a political centre of a political party. If so, whether that link has been established or is going to be established?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is known that towards the end of 1973 the Jan Sangh party had made an announcement to set up a parallel radio broadcasting station. So far as this Maharaja is concerned because the

transmitter that was found in the bed of the river and the components and the information given by the three accused previously and because the components also fitted, the Maharaja was arrested on suspicion and later released. The case is registered against him and the investigation is proceeding and as you may be aware this Maharaja of Dewas (senior) is said to be associated with Maharani Scindia.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Still you call her 'Maharani'. Sir, he is living in the past.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, it was widely rumoured at that time in that part of the area that these transmitters had been installed to put up a network and they were to be used for political purposes to create chaos in the country. May I know whether investigations have revealed any such plan on the part of the erstwhile rulers in that area?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Sir, this is a fairly powerful set and as I have said this was recovered on suspicion from the river bed and it was suspected to belonging to Maharaja Dewas (senior). This was in 1975 whereas the Jan Sangh announcement was towards the end of 1973 where they threatened that they would have a separate broadcasting network of their own. The investigation is going on. I am not in a position to say the connections.

Paper Production in Assam

*299. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the paper production will start in a couple of months in one of the three proposed mills in Assam; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). The Ashok Paper Mills' Unit at Jagighopa in Assam is expected to go into production shortly. Civil construction has been completed and most of the equipment has been erected and commissioned. Trial run of the paper machine is expected to be made this month.

DR. RANEN SEN: Sir, all sorts of reports about this particular mill appeared in Calcutta newspapers. May I know what are the actual reasons for delayed starting of the paper mill which is long overdue?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): I am not aware of all sorts of things that have appeared in the Calcutta newspaper. But the firm have reported the following progress to D.G.T.D.:—

(i) Civil construction has been completed;

(ii) All the imported equipments have arrived and erected. Most of them have been commissioned. They, however, are expecting some spare parts for start-up from their suppliers in Europe;

(iii) All the indigenous equipments have arrived at site except a few motors, agitators and instruments etc.

(iv) The pulp plant has been commissioned and unbleached pulp has been produced satisfactorily. The first production of pulp was done on the 30th January, 1975; but due to power shortage, they are unable to run their pulping plant at the moment;

(v) From the Chart furnished by the firm regarding unfinished jobs, it is seen that most

of them are expected to be over by the end of January, 1976 and, therefore, they should be in a position to commission the plant in February, or March, 1976.

DR. RANEN SEN: My question was not answered. I wanted to know whether there has been delay or not in commissioning the plant. Now, I have another question. In view of the fact that Assam is industrially very backward and talking of all claims about the development of backward areas, may I know whether, over and above this paper mill, other avenues in Assam are going to be explored for the development of the State?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I cannot give you complete information about the number of licences that have been issued in Assam State. So far as the public sector is concerned, it is intended to set up two big paper plants in Cachar and Nowgong, in addition to the one I have already spoken of.

I.T.D.A. Projects in Orissa

*302. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.T.D.A. Projects envisaged for the State of Orissa in the sub-plan;

(b) the number and names of such projects sanctioned up-to-date;

(c) whether Nilgiri I.T.D.A. Project in the district of Balasore, is one of these projects; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Nineteen Integrated Tribal Development Projects are have tentatively identified the areas envisaged within the Sub-Plan of Orissa.

(b) and (c): The State Government have tentatively identified the areas of 15 out of 19 projects and have started action such as, preparation of project reports, provision of cooperative credit and marketing structure, preparation/updating of land records, purchase of minor forest produce, supply of consumer articles and plantation and minor irrigation programmes. Expenditure for the advance action has been authorised. The Nilgiri Integrated Development Project is among these 15 projects.

(d) During the current year Rs. 1.097 lakhs has been sanctioned for Nilgiri I T.D.P. under the following programmes:—

(1) Land development	10,000
(2) Land Reclamation	25,000
(3) In-put assistance	27,500
(4) Field Demonstration	7 900
(5) Construction of dug well	30,000
(6) Animal Husbandry	10,250
Total:	109,750

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: In my original question I wanted to know the names of such projects sanctioned up-to-date. I also want to know the total amount released from the Government of India for the execution of these projects.

SHRI OM MEHTA: An amount of Rs. 2,92,00,000 has been sanctioned for Orissa, this year. I will give him the names for all the projects.

Press Censorship

*303. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the criticism that the press censoring system has failed to act as an instrument by which attempts of the forces of reaction and imperialism to misuse the press could be foiled; and

(b) to what extent the Government consider that the press censoring has been serving the purpose for which it was introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Pre-censorship has prevented the Press from publishing prejudicial reports and comments

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

India's Technical know-how in Arab Countries

*287. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tremendous scope to make available India's technical know-how in Arab countries; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). There is scope in selected areas to make available India's technical know-how in Arab countries. This requires a careful study of the industrial projects/programmes of the Arab countries and identifying the technologies from industrial firms/R&D Institutions, Engineering Design Consultancy Firms which can supply the technologies with equipment and services on guarantee basis. A number of Indian organisations are at present engaged in doing either preliminary feasibility or supply of equipment for construction of roads, bridges, high-ways, water-supply. power generation, power transmission, railway system and similar other activities. Also Indian engineering organisations like Engineers India Ltd., National Industrial Development Corporation, Dastur & Co. Projects and Equipment Corporation, Indian Consortium for power projects etc. are engaged in preparation of general surveys, feasibility studies, location studies, etc with a view to assessing the economic viability of particular projects.

Assistance to small Newspapers and Journals

*293. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government provides any assistance to the small newspapers and journals; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Assistance provided to small newspapers and journals is stated in the attached statement.

Statement

Assistance provided to small Newspapers/Journals

The Press Information Bureau distributes news and features to small

and medium newspapers in the languages in which they are published through its 28 Offices spread throughout the country.

2. A number of new Services tailored to the needs of small papers have been introduced during the last three years. In depth stories written in simple and capsule form covering developments in Science, Economic Development, Agriculture and Health and Family Planning are being prepared every month and released in all the major languages. A digest of news is issued by the Regional Branch Offices of the Bureau in languages of their region. These are in addition to features, specially designed to meet the requirements of small papers, issued by the Bureau.

3. Another Service entitled "Do you know' goes to highlight subjects of topical interest. Besides illustrating the features with photographs, photo and ebonide blocks are supplied to the small papers. The ebonoid supply was started in 1964 to serve papers which cannot afford the cost of block-making. In 1975, PIB has supplied 11,541 blocks to 1425 recipients.

4. A new photo service in the form of 'Charba' was started in September, 1971. 'Charba' is the impression of a zinc block on a specially treated paper meant for reproduction by Urdu papers printed by litho process. During the year January—December, 1975 PIB has distributed 19,577 charbas and the mailing list for charbas has 241 addresses.

5. Bureau arranges visits by Pressmen to development projects in different parts of the country. More and more representation is given in such parties to small and medium language papers.

6. A liberal approach is followed in granting accreditation facilities to representatives of small papers. According to rules, only a newspaper with a circulation of over 10,000 can seek accreditation. With a view to assist small newspapers seeking accreditation facilities this rule is relaxed. Now two or more small newspapers can ask for accreditation of a common correspondent, provided their total circulation exceeds 10,000.

7. The Bureau has on its mailing list about 4,500 recipients which includes a substantial number of small and medium papers which cater to the rural areas. A liberal approach is followed in the supply of material to newspapers.

8 Each PIB office maintains its own mailing list of recipients of press material in different languages. These lists change as and when a newspaper asks for PIB material or goes out of circulation. Besides, on important occasions like Independence Day, Republic Day and others, press releases in the form of feature articles, special releases, etc. go to newspapers and periodicals which may not be on the regular mailing lists of the PIB Offices. As most of the big newspapers subscribe to agencies' services and have their own correspondents. PIB material is mostly welcomed by small and medium newspapers which are published in semi-urban and rural areas.

9. Small newspapers can get their requirement of newsprint from Nepa, which is the cheapest.

10. Newspapers with entitlement up to 40 tonnes are exempted from payment of import licence application fee and production of Income-Tax Verification number.

11. 50 per cent of the total availability in foreign exchange for the import of printing machinery and allied equipment is reserved for small newspapers.

12. Small newspapers are given priority for import of printing machinery and allied equipment over medium and big newspapers.

13. Newspapers with a circulation of less than 2,000 copies are exempted from the provision relating to the submission of Chartered Accountant Certificate to prove their utilisation of newsprint.

14. In accordance with the declared policy of the Government, every effort is made by D.A.V.P to make increasing use of small newspapers and periodicals particularly for mass campaigns for which readership of the people in all walks of life is required.

15 A Slow-speed bulletin in English is being put out from AIR Delhi at 2-30 p.m daily for a duration of 30 minutes, to serve the requirements of medium and small newspapers which cannot afford to buy the services of news agencies. The bulletin which is relayed by several stations of All India Radio is read at a speed of 40 words per minute to enable the small newspapers to take down the words contents of the bulletin in long hand and generally covers about 1,200 words. The emphasis is on national, and regional news. Important international news is also noticed, though briefly.

Atrocities on Harijans, S.C. & S.T. and Adivasis

*294. SHRIMATI SHYAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atrocities were committed on Harijans, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis in various parts of the country during emergency; and

(b) how many such instances were reported during July, 1974 to December, 1974 and July, 1975 to December, 1975 from each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) According to information available reports of such atrocities have been received in some states during the period of emergency from 26th June, 1975 to 31st December, 1975.

(b) Information giving the comparative picture asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Issue of Letter of Intent to M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mills Ltd., Kanpur for setting up Scooter Plant

*293. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Letter of Intent has recently been issued to Messrs Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.—a wholly owned subsidiary of Messrs Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd., Kanpur—for the setting up of a scooter plant; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b) M/s Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., Kanpur, have been granted an industrial licence on 12-8-1975 for the establishment of a new industrial unertaking at Moorthal, near Sonepat (Haryana) for the manufacture of

Scooters with an annual capacity of 24,000 Nos. *inter alia* on the following conditions:

(a) No foreign collaboration or foreign consultancy arrangements or employment of foreign technician would be permitted;

(b) At least 50 per cent of the components should be obtained from the ancillary sector. Of the items to be obtained from the ancillary sector, every effort should be made to maximise the procurement from the small scale units;

(c) The company should ensure that the design developed or to be copied does not infringe any world patents or involve any legal implications,

(d) The entire issue of fresh capital shall be offered to the general public within a period of six months from the date of issue of the industrial licence; and

(e) The public financial institutions shall have the right of insertion of the convertibility clause in the long term loan agreement with the applicant company.

Power deficiency in Maharashtra

*300. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of power deficiency in Maharashtra;

(b) has the State Government made any proposals for wiping out this power deficiency;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto;

(d) whether foreign aid has been sought for putting up power projects; and

(e) if so, from which foreign countries and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). There is an energy shortage of less than 5 per cent. The capacity shortage in relation to demand is large. The Government of Maharashtra have sent project reports in respect of new power schemes, which would give benefits in the Sixth Plan period. These project reports are under examination.

(d) and (e). The Maharashtra Government have indicated their interest in securing foreign assistance for setting up a few power generation projects, but no formal proposals for specific projects have so far been received in this regard.

Gap between Demand and Supply of Power in the Country

*301. DR. K L. RAO Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present energy and peakload demand for power in the country and the actual supply at present, Statewise;

(b) the gap between demand and supply at the end of the Fifth Plan and

(c) the steps being taken to make up the gap by the end of the Fifth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) Three statements giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10256/78.]

Requirement and Manufacture of Cars

*304. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cars manufactured in India in 1975;

(b) the total requirement of such cars and the steps taken to meet the deficit therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to manufacture small cars in public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). In calendar year 1975, 23,250 cars were manufactured. The level of offtake has gone down in the recent months and, therefore, there is not, at the moment, significant unstatisfied demand; the question of taking steps to meet the deficit, therefore, does not arise

(c) There is no proposal to manufacture small car in public sector.

उत्तर बिहार में ग्रामीण बिजली घर बनाना

*305. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या परमाणु ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार के सिंहभूम जिले में जादूगुडा स्थान पर यूरेनियम की बहुतायत है ;

(ख) क्या बिहार सरकार ने उत्तर बिहार मे ग्रामीण बिजली घर बनाने की योजना सरकार को प्रस्तुत की है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

प्रधान मंत्री, योजना मंत्री, परमाणु ऊर्जा मंत्री, इलैक्ट्रानिक्स मंत्री तथा अंतरिक्ष मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : (क) बिहार में यूरेनियम धातुक के ऐसे निक्षेप विद्यमान हैं जिनसे धातुक निकाला जा सकता है।

(ख) जी, नही ।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नही उठता।

Allocations for different Development Schemes for Orissa for 1975-76

1300. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the discussion with Government of Orissa regarding the allocations by the State and Centre for different Development Schemes for 1975-76 has been completed;

(b) if so, the share of the State and Centre for the same; and

(c) the amount kept for the development of backward regions of that State for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The discussions with Government of Orissa regarding their Annual Plan 1975-76 were concluded at the start of the year and a Plan of Rs. 89.25 crores was approved. This was to be financed as under;

	(Rs. crores)
States Resources	40.59
Central assistance	32.70

In addition to the above Central Assistance, Special Advance Plan Assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore was also allocated for the Mahanadi Delta Project.

(c) Information is being collected.

अम्बर चर्खों का निर्यात

1301. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ देशों ने अम्बर चर्खों की सप्लाई के लिये भारत को आदेश दिये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन देशों के नाम क्या है ,

(ग) क्या कुछ राज्य सरकारों को इन चर्खों के निर्माण के लिये आदेश दिये गये है , और

(घ) यदि हां तो ऐसे राज्यों के नाम क्या है ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए० पी० शर्मा) : (क) और (ख) अम्बर चर्खे मारिशस और लाओस को भेजे गये है।

(ग) जी, नही।

(घ) प्रश्न ही नही उठता।

Recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Police and other Departments

1302. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in the police and other Government services, undertakings and units is not being done in accordance with the policy of Government, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to have an enquiry committee to find out the reasons and to take appropriate actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) No. Sir. Generally, the instructions relating to recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being followed by all Departments and Undertakings, etc.

(b) No. Sir.

नेपा मिल्स के चेयरमैन के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

1303. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नेशनल न्यूजप्रिंट एण्ड पेपर मिल्स लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन के विरुद्ध ट्रांसफार्मर और चूना पत्थर की खरीद में की गई अनियमितताओं और भारी घपले और कारखाने को हानि पहुचाने के बारे में शिकायतें मिली ? जिनकी जांच केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो द्वारा की गई है ;

(ख) क्या जांच करते समय कई आरोप सही पाये गये , और

(ग) जांच के आधार पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी० पी० मौर्य) : (क) केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो द्वारा अभी तक इस प्रकार की किसी शिकायत की जांच नहीं की गई है।

(ख) और (ग) . प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते

Grant of Pension to Ex-INA Personnel

1304. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Ex-I.N.A. personnel, who have been sanctioned pensions by the Union Government, State-wise upto 31st December, 1975 under the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme;

(b) the number of cases in each category which have been rejected, State-wise; and

(c) the number of cases which are still pending for decision in each case, State-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (c). A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10257/76].

Films Produced during 1975

1305. SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coloured and other films produced in the country during 1975, language-wise, and the order of investment thereon;

(b) the number of films exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned during 1975;

(c) the maximum and minimum investment on production of films during 1975 and the names of such films; and

(d) whether Government are considering a proposal to put a ceiling on the production cost of films?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR) SINHA): (a) A statement showing language-wise feature films certified by the Board of Film Censor during 1975 is attached. The film industry being in private sector, Government have no information about the order of investments made in the production of films.

(b) Statistics regarding export of films is compiled in terms of length and value. During 1974-75 films of the length of 1,09,90,740 meters valued at Rs. 6,62,55,071 were exported.

(c) Government have no information The cost of film varies from film to film depending upon various factors like Star-cost production values, number of sets and locations etc.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

Language wise break up of Indian Feature Films certified by the Board of Film censors during the year 1975.

S. No	Language	Colour	Black & White	Total
1.	Hindi/Rajasthani/Bhojpuri/Hindustani/Avadhi/Nagdhi/Urdu/Dogri	116	4	120
2.	Marathi	7	10	17
3	Gujarati	11	1	12
4.	Punjabi	5	.	5
5.	Konkani		1	1
6.	English	.	1	1
7.	Tamil	24	47	71
8.	Telugu	32	56	88
9.	Kannada	13	26	39
10.	Malayalam	15	62	77
11.	Bengali	.	35	35
12.	Oriya	..	3	3
13.	Assamese	..	6	6
	TOTAL	223	252	475

Scheduled Tribe Employees in H.A.L. Ozar

1306. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in the H.A.L. Ozar, Nasik Dn. and the number of those among them who belong to Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether 6 per cent of the total employees belong to Scheduled Tribes as per policy of the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VITHAL GADGIL): (a) Total number of employees at Nasik Division of HAL as on 31-12-75 is 7325 of which 191 employees belong to Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c). No Sir. HAL however continues to make all possible efforts to improve the representation of employees belonging to Scheduled Tribes. The Presidential directive prescribing a reservation of posts for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes was made applicable to public sector undertakings in January 1970. Since March, 1970 Nasik Division has filled up 2782 posts of which 175 posts were reserved for Scheduled Tribes. Against this, 147 candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes have been appointed. Of the balance 28 posts, seven are under recruitment action. Suitable candidates for the remaining 21 posts could not be found from Scheduled Tribes despite best efforts and hence these were dereserved in accordance with established procedure.

सीधी (मध्य प्रदेश) में उद्योग

1307. श्री मार्तण्ड सिंह : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार मध्य प्रदेश में सीधी जिले में सिंगरौली कोयला विकास निगम के सहयोग से कोई उद्योग स्थापित करने का है ;

(ख) क्या इस संदर्भ में कोई आवेदन पत्र भी विचाराधीन है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथा क्या है ; और

(घ) उद्योग की स्थापना कब तक की जायेगी ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी० पी० मौर्य) : (क) सिंगरौली कोल डेवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन नामक कोई निगम है इस बात का सरकार को पता नही है। अत: इस निगम के सहयोग से उद्योग स्थापित करने का प्रश्न ही नही उठता।

(ख) से (घ) : प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते।

Closure of Jaipur-Udyog Cement Plant at Sawai Madhopur

1308. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken to get production resumed in the Jaipur-Udyog cement plant at Sawai Madhopur which is under closure since May, 1975;

(b) whether Government propose to prosecute the owners/directors of the company for financial mis-management and misuse of funds; and

(c) whether Government are considering to take-over and run the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (c). The Swaimadhopur Cement factory of M/s. Jaipur Udyog Ltd. has been closed since the second week of September, 1975. The factory has been visited by representatives of the Department of Company Affairs, the D.G.T.D. and the State Bank of India with a view to assessing the problems and to initiate suitable steps to ensure restarting of the factory. The State Bank of India is currently examining proposals to extend necessary financial assistance to the factory subject to certain changes in management Action against the owners/directors will be taken by the appropriate authorities where specific violations of law have been established.

Booklet entitled "Disciplined Democracy-Quest for Stability"

1309. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether D.A.V.P. published a Booklet entitled "Discipline Democracy —quest for stability";

(b) if so, number of copies printed in each language and the expenditure incurred thereon,

(c) whether the book is primarily meant for the workers of a particular political party; and

(d) if so, the reasons for publishing such a book?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a). Yes. Sir.

(b) 10,000 copies each in English and Hindi have been printed at a cost of Rs. 8,200.00 approximately.

Printing of the booklet has been taken up in the following languages and quantities:

(i) Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, Telugu and Kannada: 10000 each

(ii) Gujarati and Marathi: 5000 each.

(c) and (d). The booklet has been considered useful for public information as it high-lights the 20-point economic programme of the Government and the gains made under it. It is not meant only for the workers of any political party. It also deals with the circumstances leading to the proclamation of Emergency

मध्य प्रदेश में उद्योगों की स्थापना

1310. श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि अन्य राज्यों की तुलना मे मध्य प्रदेश मे गत छ महीनो मे बहुत कम उद्योग स्थापित किये गए ; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो इसके क्या कारण है ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बी० पी० मौर्य) (क) और (ग) : मध्य प्रदेश तथा अन्य राज्यों मे विगत छह महीनो मे स्थापित किये गये उद्योगो के बारे मे सूचना उपलब्ध नही है। जुलाई से दिसम्बर 1975 की अवधि मे मध्यप्रदेश में औद्योगिक एकक स्थापित करने के लिए 16 आशय पत्र तथा 20 औद्योगिक लाइसेंस जारी किए गए हैं।

Applications for Licence from Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation

1311. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications for licence from the Kerala State Electronic Development Corporation pending before Government, and

(b) the reasons for the delay?

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) (a) Two

(b) The applications are of October 15 and December 31 1975 and cannot be considered to have been delayed

Compliance of Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act by Companies

1312 SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state

(a) whether Colgate Palmolive Coca Cola Export Corporation, Chesebrough, Ponds and Cadbury Fry have by now complied with the relevant provisions of the Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act 1973, and

(b) if not, the action taken by Government after 31st August 1974 upto now to induce these companies to comply with the provisions of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B P MAURYA): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India, Bombay has issued a letter of Intent to M/s Cadbury Fry (India) Private Limited for granting permission under Section 29(2) (a) and (c) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 subject *inter alia*, to the condition that the non resident interest in the equity capital of the company shall be reduced to a level not exceeding 40 per cent within a period of two years from the date of receipt of the permission.

M/s Colgate Palmolive (India) Private Ltd, the Coca Cola Export Corporation and Chesebrough Ponds have submitted their applications for permission under Section 29 of the said Act. The Reserve Bank of India has not yet issued any orders under Section 29(2) (a) and (c) of the said Action in respect of these companies

Deposits of Limenite in Sea around Ratnagiri

1313 SHRI M KATHAMUTHU Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether large deposits of Limenite have been discovered in the sea around Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and what Government propose to do with it?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) (a) and (b) No large deposits of limenite have been discovered in the off shore sea bed region of Ratnagiri coast in Maharashtra Atomic Minerals Division of this Department carried out surveys including sampling and activity measurements of the sea-bed off Ratnagiri coast in Maharashtra during the course of oceanographic expedition to the north-east of Arabian sea during 1973-74. Most of the samples collected in the expedition were found to contain only less than 1 per cent of heavy minerals.

Election of Majority Union in B.H.E.L.

1314. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited would soon elect majority union by secret ballot; and

(b) whether the secret ballot to elect majority union would be applicable in all the units of public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A PAI) (a) Elections by secret ballot have been held sometime ago in the Bhopal and Hardwar Units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for determining the majority Unions for the purpose of representation at the Central Joint Negotiating Committee and workers' association in management

(b) Government have not issued any orders making election by secret ballot applicable to all Units in the Public Sector but, as this is an accepted procedure for determining majority, it can be adopted by any Unit if circumstances require it.

Measures to support Industries facing fall in Demand

1315 SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position of all industries which are facing a fall in demand,

(b) if so, the names of such industries;

(c) whether Government have considered a package of measures for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the outlines of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA). (a) to (d). Government is constantly watching the trends in the industrial production. It has been noticed that while the overall industrial production has indicated a higher growth rate of production, in certain industries production has recorded decline during 1975 as compared to 1974. In all cases the fall in production cannot be attributed to a fall in demand. An Inter-Ministerial Study Group has been set up to study the problems of selected consumer durables industries which are suffering temporarily from a fall in demand. Meanwhile, Government have taken certain measures to ensure increased production and increased offtake in a number of industries. These measures include permission to the industrial undertakings to diversify their production, allocation of additional funds for the improvement of the public transport system and relaxation of the ban of construction activities In the field of textiles, exemption has been given to weaker and sick mills from the obligation to produce controlled cloth.

Increase in number of unemployed persons

1316. SHRI K S CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed has been going up at a rapid rate from First Plan onwards, and

(b) what is the number of such people under each category at the end of the Fourth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K GUJRAL): (a) Precise information regarding the magnitude and the rate of growth of unemployment in the country from First Plan onwards is not available.

The live register data of employment exchanges which provide a broad trend of unemployment situation in urban areas reveal that there has been a fall in the rate of increase in the number of job-seekers in recent years. The average annual increase during 1973—75 was 6 per cent as against 30 per cent during 1971—73.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Number of job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exchanges as on 31-12-1973 classified by educational level.

Category	Number on live register as on 31-12-1973
1. Below Matric	*43,16,002*
2. Matriculates	*20,74,001*
3. Persons who passed Higher Secondary/ (including Intermediates/under graduates)	*10,71,757*
4. Graduates Total	*6,88,968*
(i) Arts	2,90,856
(ii) Science	2,10,716
(iii) Commerce	94,957
(iv) Medicine	5,664
(v) Engineering	22,730
(vi) Veterinary	371
(vii) Agriculture	8,913
(viii) Law	2,457
(ix) Education	44,629
(x) Others	7,675
5. Post Graduates Total	*66,981*
(i) Arts	34,324
(ii) Science	16,036
(iii) Commerce	5,157
(iv) Medicine	184
(v) Engineering	363
(vi) Veterinary	19
(vii) Agriculture	959
(viii) Law	127
(ix) Education	8,323
(x) Others	1,449
I. Total Educated (2—5)	*39,01,647*
II. Total Job-Seekers (1—5)	*82,17,649*

(*Source* : DGE & T)

Manufacture of Transformers in the Country

1317. SHRI TUNA ORAON: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transformers produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise, with the capacity and utilised capacity;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up a transformer industry in Fifth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government appointed any team to go into the problem of selecting the site for transformer industry; and

(d) if so, the result thereof and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) The following table gives

the information asked for:—

(Figures in million KVA)

Year	Installed capacity	Production	Capacity utilised
1973	17·94	11·65	65%
1974	20·04	12·21	61%
1975	22·17	13.23	60%

(b) Yes, Sir. The Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited are setting up a new transformer factory which will be completed during the Fifth Five-Year Plan period. This will help to bridge the gap between the present installed capacity and the requirements at the end of the Plan period, which is estimated at 30 million KVA.

(c) and (d). The question of selection of site for setting up the transformer plant was examined in detail by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. Jhansi (UP) was selected as the most suitable site as this location has the necessary infra-structural facilities like availability of water, transport and skilled labour and is also within a reasonable distance from the Bhopal Plant for Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited who are providing engineering and technical support for setting up the project. Civil and construction works are in progress according to schedule.

Representation by News Agencies in India

1818. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of news agencies working in India and their duration of working,

(b) which of these news agencies have represented to Government about the difficulties they are experiencing in their working, and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) A statement regarding the Indian News Agencies, who have representatives accredited to Govt of India is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Govt. have not received any representation about "difficulties experienced" in the working of news-agencies from any of these agencies.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Press Trust of India	(Started in 1949)
United News of India	(Started in 1961)
Samachar Bharati	(Started in 1965)
Hindustan Samachar	(Started in 1948)
National News Service	(Started in 1951)
India Press Agency	(Started in 1957)
India News and Feature Alliance	(Started in 1959)
Enterprise News and Features	(Started in 1971)
Cartographic News Service	(Started in 1958)
Vikrant News Service	(Started in 1971)
Public Opinion Trends	(Started in 1973)
Television News Features	(Started in 1975)
Press Asia International	(Started in 1970)
Foreign News and Features	(Started in 1970)

वर्ष 1975 में बनी फिल्मों को फिल्म वित्त निगम द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता

1319. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भारत में 1975 में किस-किस भाषा में फिल्म वित्त निगम की वित्तीय सहायता से कितनी फिल्में बनी ; और

(ख) फिल्म वित्त निगम ने 1975 में ऋण के रूप में कितनी राशि दी ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री धर्मवीर सिंह) : (क) फीचर फिल्म

मलयालम —	1
डाकुमेंट्री फिल्में	
अंग्रेजी	3
योग	4

(ख) 8,43,456- रुपए ।

Restrictions on Import of Technology

1320. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose stringent checks on the import of technology; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Government policy for import of Technology continues to be selective. Government have also consistently recognised the importance of Research and Development in both Public and Private Industrial Undertakings with a view to achieving self-reliance in technology. Foreign investment and collaboration is restricted in sectors where indigenous technical know-how has been developed to an adequate level within the country and also in fields of relatively low priority. However, import of technology is being considered on merits if exports are guaranteed.

Procurement Target of Coal

1321. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procurement target of coal from Talcher of Ib river sector of Mahanadi valley of Orissa as fixed by the Union Government; and

(b) steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Government does not fix any procurement target for coal. Talcher and Ib river are two different coalfields in Orissa. The present production in the coal mines in these coalfields is of the order of 1.25 million tonnes and 0.75 million tonnes respectively. The Coal India Ltd. have plans to increase production further in these two coal fields

Spare parts of Automobiles

1322. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA): Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of spare parts of automobiles are facing serious difficulties for the last one year as a result of falling production of automobiles, specially the passenger cars by the automobile manufacturing plants; and

(b) if so, the remedy to be adopted by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). No serious difficulties have generally been experienced so far. The situation will improve as production and sales of passenger cars move up as expected.

Per Capita consumption of Electricity in the Country

1323. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to *per capita* consumption of electricity in the country with special reference to North Bihar;

(b) For last three years, year-wise allocation by the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. for rural electrification schemes for Bihar and the actual implementation uptil now;

(c) whether about 64 rural electrification schemes, Mini schemes and Minimum need programme schemes for Bihar are pending approval by the Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.; and

(d) if so, causes for delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The *per capita* consumption of electricity in North Bihar is 11 02 kwh as compared to the All India Average of 99.3 kwh.

(b) During the last 3 years, the Corporation has sanctioned 61 rural electrification schemes of the Bihar State Electricity Board for a loan assistance of Rs. 36,13 crores as under:

Year	Loan amount sanctioned
	(Rs. in crores)
1973-74	7·72
1974-75	28·41
1975-76 (upto Dec. 1975)	..
	36·13

These 61 schemes envisage energisation of 29,528 pumpsets and extension of electricity to 5,315 small industries in 6,571 villages. The schemes are phased for completion over a period ranging upto 5 years. The achievement reported upto 30-6-1975 was energisation of 11 pumpsets and extension of electricity to 13 small industries in 22 villages.

(c) No scheme of rural electrification in Bihar is at present pending consideration with the Corporation.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Cars, Jeeps, Scooters and Motor Cycles

1324. SHRI A. K. KISKU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cars, jeeps, scooters and motor cycles produced in the last two years, Unit-wise;

(b) the present demand for the above vehicles and the anticipated demand by the end of the Fifth Plan,

(c) the number of parties issued letters of intent, sector-wise, in Public, Private and Joint Sector; and

(d) the number of vehicles to be produced, category-wise and the likely period of their commencement of production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) The information is as under:

Name of Industry	Name of firm	Production (in Nos).	
		1974	1975
1. Cars	1. M/s. Hindustan Motors Ltd., West Bengal	20,333	9,444
	2. M/s. Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay	14,757	13,683
	3. M/s. Standard Motor Products of India Ltd., Madras	1,666	123
2. Jeeps	1. M/s. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Bombay	10,015	8,171
3. Scooters	1. M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd., Poona	55,126	60,745
	2. M/s Automobile Products of India Ltd., Bombay	29,412	29,754
	3. M/s. Escorts Ltd., Faridabad	1,100	537
	4. M/s. Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow	..	10,595
4. Motor Cycles	1. M/s. Enfield India Ltd., Madras	16,487	18,863
	2. M/s. Ideal Jawa (India) Private Ltd., Mysore	20,701	26,701
	3. M/s. Escorts Ltd., Faridabad	16,038	23,965
	4. M/s. Saund Zweirad Union India (P) Ltd, Gwalior	859	200

(b) The estimated present demand and the anticipated demand by the end of the Fifth Plan is as under:

	Estimated present demand (in Nos.)	Anticipated demand by 1978-79 (in Nos.)
1. Cars	20,000	60,000
2. Jeeps	8,000	18,000
3. Scooters	200,000	400,000
4. Motor Cycles	80,000	130,000

(c) and (d). Apart from the letters of intent granted to new entrepreneurs which have already been converted into industrial licences/registration certificates covering a capacity of 58,000 Nos. per annum in respect of passenger cars and 275,000 Nos. per annum for scooters, the requisite information in respect of valid letters of intent granted to new parties which are yet to be converted into industrial licences/registration certificates is given below:—

Category	No. of Units	Public Sector	Joint Sector	Private Sector	Approved capacity (Nos.)
1. Cars	4	..	..	4	45,000
2. Jeeps	..	..	..	..	..
3. Scooters	8	..	1	7**	212,000
4. Motor Cycles	1	..	.	1	3,000

**(Including three State Industrial Development Corporations).

The letters of intent will be converted into industrial licences/registration certificates after the parties have fulfilled the conditions laid down in the letters of intent. It is not possible to forecast with any degree of exactness as to when they would be able to commence production.

Poverty conditions in India

1325. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether general poverty conditions have increased in the country in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) the number of people who were below the poverty line in 1973, 1974 and 1975; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K GUJRAL): (a) to (c). Proportion of persons living below the poverty level is estimated with the help of National Sample Survey Data on consumer expenditure. These data are available so far upto the year 1970-71 only which are as follows:

Year	Consumption expenditure at poverty line	Proportion of persons	
	(Rs.)	rural (p.c.)	urban
1960-61	20·00	59	33
1967 68	41·60	74	64
1968-69	39·40	75	59
1970-71	40·80	74	50

(d) The draft Fifth Plan embodies policies and programmes which are designated to raise the consumption standards of the poorer sections of the population. The various steps taken in this direction include (1) stepping up of plan outlay from year to year, (2) placing special emphasis on development of agriculture, village and small industries, animal husbandry, dairying, fishing, etc, (3) adoption of special programmes for small and marginal farmers, landless labour, etc., (4) introduction of land reforms, (5) special programmes for drought-prone areas, (6) extension of social services and welfare programmes, (7) strengthening and enlargement of the public procurement and distribution system, etc

The recently introduced 20 point programme, in addition, seeks to ascertain programmes of special significance to the poorer and weaker sections of the population and to implement such welfare measures with a greater sense of urgency and dynamism.

Curb on excess production and Foreign remittances

1326. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present legal provisions are not enough to suitably punish and curb excess production and foreign remittances made by Foreign owned companies; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). With a view to making the existing penal provisions in the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act more stringent, Government propose to bring about amendments to the Act so as to deal effectively and quickly with cases of unauthorised production. In so far as remittances made by the foreign companies are concerned, Government have already enacted Foreign Exchange Regulation Act for the conservation of foreign exchange resources and proper utilisation thereof in the interests of the economic development of the country.

Threat in Indian Ocean

1327 SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Naval ships are under constant aerial and electronic surveillance inside the territorial waters and open sea,

(b) whether the threat from nuclear base at Diego Garcia in the Indian ocean is a part of the sophisticated threats developing in the Indian ocean; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet these sophisticated threats in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) There have been instances of aerial (and presumably electronic) surveillance of our Naval ships by foreign aircraft in international waters but not within our territorial waters.

(b) and (c). Government are aware of the development of Diego Garcia as a Naval and Air base which would allow sophisticated ships and aircraft to operate therefrom The Government's concern at the development of foreign bases in the Indian Ocean has been made known to all concerned and all possible steps to strengthen our Naval defence are also being taken.

Setting up of an Atomic Power Station in Gujarat

1328. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken in regard to the setting up of an atomic power station in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The final recommendations of the Site Selection Committee in regard to the setting up of an atomic power station in the Western region (which also includes Gujarat State) are under the consideration of the Government.

Reported clashes between Naxalites and Police in Bihar

1329. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clashes between the Naxalites and the police have been reported from Bihar recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have been able to locate the different spheres where the Naxalites are still operating and spreading the cult of violence, and

(c) the steps taken to curb their activities and the results achieved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Naxalites have been operating and spreading the cult of violence in parts of Patna, Bhojpur and Madhubani districts of Bihar.

(c) Appropriate measures in the shape of intensified police patrols, raids and searches have been undertaken to locate and effectively deal with these extremist elements. A number of Naxalites have been arrested and large quantities of arms, ammunition, explosive and Naxalite literature have been recovered.

Self-sufficiency in Power Supply

1330. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE. Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is on the verge of achieving self-sufficiency in power supply;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether power supply to the industries in Maharashtra was not sufficient which had affected the production; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been a significant improvement in the total power generation in the country. Situation is comfortable in Northern, Eastern and Southern Regions with marginal shortages in Western Region.

(c) and (d). There is energy shortage of less than 5 per cent in Maharashtra. The capacity shortage in relation to demand is larger. The situation is being managed through suitable staggering of loads to the utmost extent possible to minimise impact of shortage on production and essential services.

Traffic Violations in Delhi

1331. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether traffic violations in Delhi in 1975 were more as compared to 1974; and

(b) if so, the percentage rise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). During the year 1975, 2,01,095 persons were prosecuted for traffic violations as compared to 1,65,722 during the year 1974. There was thus an increase of 21.34 per cent during 1975. This increase was because of the special drive launched by the traffic police to improve traffic conditions in Delhi.

Industrial co-operation between India and E.C.M.

1332. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of forming a new group in which India and the European Common Market will deal with new forms of industrial co-operation; and

(b) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). Exploratory discussions were held by the Minister of Industry and Civil Supplies with the Commissioner in charge of Industry in the E.E.C. to see whether India and E.E.C. could have a joint study group to cover various forms of industrial co-operation such as bilateral co-operation including transfer of technology, setting up projects in 3rd countries, etc.

Restoration of illegally transferred Land to Tribal People in Tripura

1333. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether restoration of tribal people's land, illegally transferred to non-tribals, is taking-place in Tripura;

(b) whether some difficulties created by non-tribal land grabbers are causing delay in the process; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to speed up the cases of restoration of tribal land to the tribal people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. So far orders have been passed in 152 cases for restoration of land to tribals.

(b) No specific instances have been reported.

(c) Specially selected officers are being positioned by the State Government to speed up the work of restoration of land alienated by tribals.

Per capita G.N.P. in India

1334 SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita G.N.P. in India during 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75; and

(b) the percentage of its rise or fall in each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The per

capita G.N.P. in 1972-73 and 1973-74 was Rs. 743.1 and Rs. 899.9 respectively at current prices. It was Rs. 382.9 and Rs. 365.8 respectively at constant (1960-61) prices for the two years. Information for 1974-75 is not yet available.

(b) Per capita G.N.P. at current prices registered an increase of 5.8 per cent and 21.1 per cent in 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively. Per capita G.N.P. at constant (1960-61) prices recorded a fall of 2.7 per cent in 1972-73 and a marginal increase of 0.8 per cent in 1973-74.

Survey of Marine Pollution

1335. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination is considering to sponsor some surveys of India's coastal water to estimate the extent of marine pollution; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes.

(b) The National Committee on Environment Coordination is planning to commission institutions working in the field of marine biology and marine pollution to carry out a survey of our estaurine and coastal waters. The Institutions include the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, National Institute of Oceanography, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and some Universities

उच्च-न्यायालयों और उच्चतम न्यायालय में भारतीय भाषाओं में कार्यवाही और निर्णय

1336. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :**

प्रो० नारायण चन्द पराशर :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय देश मे ऐसे उच्च न्यायालयों के नाम और उनकी संख्या क्या है जिनमें भारतीय भाषाओ में कार्यवाही होती है तथा निर्णय लिये जाते हैं और ऐसे उच्च न्यायालयों के नाम और उनकी संख्या क्या है जिनमें केवल अंग्रेजी मे ही ऐसा किया जाता है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार उच्च न्यायालयो को यह निदेश जारी करने का है कि वे अपनी कार्यवाही और निर्णयों के लिये भारतीय भाषाओं का उपयोग करे ।

गृह मंत्रालय, कार्मिक और प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओम मेहता) (क) : इलाहाबाद, पटना, राजस्थान तथा मध्य प्रदेश के उच्च न्यायालय अपनी कार्यवाहियो तथा निर्णयो मे अंग्रेजी के अलावा हिन्दी का प्रयोग कर रहे है । शेष उच्च न्यायालय इस प्रयोजन के लिये केवल अंग्रेजी का प्रयोग कर रहे है ।

(ख) संविधान के अनुच्छेद 348(2) तथा राजभाषा अधिनियम, 1963 की धारा 7 के अधीन राज्य का राज्यपाल, राष्ट्रपति की पूर्व सहमति से उच्च न्यायालय की कार्यवाहियों मे अथवा राज्य के उच्च न्यायालय के किसी निर्णय, डिक्री अथवा उसके द्वारा पारित अथवा दिये गये आदेश के प्रयोजन के लिये अंग्रेजी भाषा के अतिरिक्त हिन्दी अथवा उस राज्य की राजभाषा के प्रयोग का अधिकार दे सकता है । अतः संविधान

अथवा राजभाषा अधिनियम, 1963 के उपरोक्त उपबन्धों के अधीन उच्च न्यायालय में हिन्दी अथवा क्षेत्रीय भाषा के प्रयोग के लिये राज्य सरकारों को स्वयं पहल करनी है । केन्द्रीय सरकार का सम्बन्ध केवल उस समय होता है जब संविधान तथा राजभाषा अधिनियम के उक्त उपबन्धों के अन्तर्गत राष्ट्रपति की पूर्व सहमति लेने का प्रश्न उठता है ।

National Awards to Scholars in Sanskrit and Arabic

1337. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India sanction National Awards to eminent scholars in Sanskrit and Arabic, annually;

(b) if so, the nature of the award and financial benefits accruing from them; and

(c) the names of the persons who have been given these awards during the past three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Sanad and a Shawl (Robe of Honour) are presented to the scholars when the distinction is conferred by the President at the investiture ceremony. A monetary grant of Rs. 3,000 per annum for each year commencing on 15th August of the year in which the award is announced, is also given.

(c) A list is laid down on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10258/76].

Tour abroad of Members of Coir Board

1338. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coir Board members had gone abroad to promote export in West Asia and Latin-America and other countries;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on expenses; and

(c) total amount of export orders expected from abroad for Coir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Exploitation of Tribals and Weaker Sections in Rural Areas

1339. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that exploitation of tribals and weaker sections in the rural areas in the country is still going on inspite of the economic and legislative measures taken by Government;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to check the exploitation; and

(c) the agencies provided to collect the information and the administrative measures taken to check the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (c). Legislative measures placing a moratorium on debts and for abolition of bonded labour have substantially minimised the scope for exploitation

of tribals and weaker sections. The economic and other legislative measures which are being implemented will have further impact in this direction. In the meantime, the possibility of such exploitation in some areas or other cannot be ruled out. Government are alive to this situation. Replies received from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and the Union territory of Pondicherry indicate that broad-based Committees have been constituted for watching the implementation of these measures and special cells have also been set up to collect information and detect and check cases relating to social and economic exploitation. Replies from other States giving details of the machinery set up by them are awaited and will be laid on the table of the House.

House Sites for Harijans under the 20-Point Programme

1340. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the 20-point programme, the house site distribution policy did not favour the Harijans and tribals in most of the States; and

(b) whether equal amount of financial support has been given to the landless Harijans for house sites?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The scheme aims at providing house-sites, free of cost, to families of landless workers in rural areas irrespective of the fact whether they are Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

According to the information received upto 31-12-1975, about 58.3 lakhs of families have been allotted house-sites by the various State Governments and Union Territories. More than 20 lakhs of these families belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Declaration of Sant Ravidas's Birthday as a Holiday

1341. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several appeals have been made to Government to declare a holiday on the birthday of Sant Ravidas, the great humanist and guide of the people in general and Harijans in particular; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Guru Ravidas's Birthday is always included in the list of Restricted holidays for the Central Government Offices at Delhi/New Delhi. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission ,the occasions/ festivals to be included in the list of Closed/Restricted Holidays have already been fixed.

चिल्ड्रन्स फिल्म सोसाइटी को सहायता

1342. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस समय 'चिल्ड्रन्स फिल्म सोसाइटी' देश के अलग-अलग भागों मे काम कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संस्था को सरकार द्वारा अब तक किस प्रकार का सहयोग दिया जाता रहा है,

(ग) क्या इस सोसाइटी के माध्यम से देश के शिशुओं को प्रेरणादायक चरित्र निर्माण व अनुशासन का महत्व ज्ञात होता है, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसकी गतिविधियों का अधिकाधिक विस्तार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रयास किए गए है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री धर्मवीर सिंह) : (क) से (घ). बाल फिल्म समिति का पंजीकृत कार्यालय नई दिल्ली में है और इसका मुख्य कार्यालय बम्बई में है। यह समिति मुख्यत केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा दिए जाने वाले सहायक अनुदान पर निर्भर करती है। परन्तु इसका राज्य सरकारों की सदस्यता, आदि से राजस्व प्राप्त होता है। इस समिति का उद्देश्य बच्चों में शैक्षिक उद्देश्यों और स्वस्थ मनोरंजन की फिल्मों में अभिरुचि उत्पन्न करना और उसको विकसित करना है। बाल फिल्मों के निर्माण/खरीद/डबिंग के लिए इस समिति को सहायक अनुदान देने के लिए पांचवी पंच वर्षीय योजना में एक करोड रुपयों की व्यवस्था की गई है।

बसों और ट्रकों का उत्पादन

1343. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या **उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) भारत में निर्मित एक ट्रक और बस पाने के लिए किसी व्यक्ति को कितने दिन प्रतीक्षा करनी पडती है और उस पर कितना शुल्क देना पड़ता है ; और

(ख) भारत में इस समय ट्रकों और बसों का पृथक-पृथक कितना उत्पादन होता है ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री टी० ए० पाई): (क) टाटा तथा लेलैंड गाडियों को छोड़कर अन्य मेकों की कोई प्रतीक्षा अवधि नहीं है। प्रतीक्षा अवधि अलग अलग माडलों और स्थानों में भिन्न-भिन्न होती है। देश में बनाई गई ट्रक और बस चेसिस मूल्यों के अनुसार उत्पादन शुल्क में 12 1/2 प्रतिशत की रियायती दर के अधीन है।

(ख) 1975 में 30,410 ट्रकें और 12,210 बसें निर्मित की गईं।

स्कूटरों में काला बाजार

1344. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : क्या **उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) देश में इस समय स्कूटरों की मांग क्या है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं कि बस्पा स्कूटर काला बाजार में बडी संख्या में मिल रहे है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इसे रोकने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री टी० ए० पाई): (क) पांचवीपंच वर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक स्कूटरों की मांग प्रतिवर्ष 4,00,000 रखी गई है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

24-Point Programme for Upliftment and Development of SC & ST

1345. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a time bound 24-Point programme of action was adopted in the conference of State Ministers-in-charge of Welfare of Backward Classes Welfare to uplift and develop the condition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, what are those programmes and how many of them have been implemented so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). The Conference of State Ministers-in-Charge of Backward Classes Welfare held at New Delhi on the 19th and 20th April, 1975 adopted 24 resolutions for the uplift and development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These resolutions relate to the flow of funds for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of general sector programmes, prevention of land alienation, abolition of liquor vending in tribal areas, right to collect minor forest produce, organisation of forest cooperatives, rights over forest land, unified credit-cum-marketing structure for the tribal areas, programme of debt redemption, policy matters relating to sub-plans for tribal areas selection of suitable personnel for tribal areas, suitable system for monitoring and evaluation of programmes, programme for the economic development of Scheduled Castes, ownership rights on land for Scheduled Castes, conversion of dry latrines into water-borne latrines, pre-matric education for Scheduled Castes and review of employment position of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes All the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have accepted these resolutions which are at various stages of examination by them. They are also being kept in view in the formulation of Sub-Plans and the Integrated Tribal Development Projects of various States.

Abolition of Liquor Shops in Tribal Belts

1346. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Minister's-in-charge of welfare of backward classes agreed in principle at a conference held in New Delhi in the month of April, 1975 to abolish liquor shops in tribal belts of their States within a year;

(b) if so, the excise policy adopted in the tribal areas;

(c) the names of the States which have abolished the liquor shops in tribal belts; and

(d) the steps taken by his ministry in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) The Conference of State Minister-in-charge of Backward Classes decided that liquor vending should end in tribal areas.

(b) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have accepted. in principle the new excise policy.

(c) The State of Orissa abolished liquor vending in 118 Tribal pockets. The State of Madhya Pradesh proposes to abolish liquor vending through contractors with effect from 1st April, 1976.

(d) Steps are being taken to ensure that the new Excise Policy for Tribal areas forms an integral part of the Tribal Sub-Plans.

New Administration Policy for Tribal Areas for Implementation of ITDPs and other Development Programme

1347. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted a new Scheme for tribal areas to implement the ITDPs and other development programmes in the new economic schemes;

(b) if so, the main feature thereof;

(c) whether all the States having Sub-plan areas have adopted the same; and

(d) if so, whether Government of Orissa have proposed restructuring of the administrative machinery in ITDPs areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The Draft Fifth Five Year Plan Document states in the Chapter XIII, page 276, para 13.19 that the "Administrative set up in tribal areas will be restructured to suit the special requirement. It is essential that formulation and implementation of area development plan is entrusted to a single line agency."

(b) In the quidelines sent to the State Governments they were advised to take into consideration local conditions, the existing administrative structure and other institutions while formulating policies for administration. It has been stated that multiplicity of agencies has resulted in the diffusion of responsibility, inadequate control, lack of coordination and from the people's angle, difficulty in identifying the officials concerned with specific programmes. Therefore, the States were requested to evolve an administrative set up to achieve functional coordination and efficiency. Delegation of authority, specificity of responsibility and adequate flexibility would require to be built into the system so as to enable the implementing authority to effect changes in the on-going programmes on the basis of concurrent evaluation. The State Governments were required to spell out this approach clearly in their sub-plans regarding administrative reorganization and personnel policies in the tribal areas.

(c) All the States and Union Territories having substantial tribal population are in the process of finalising their sub-plans including the administrative set up.

(d) The Government of Orissa also is in the process of finalising the sub-plan and personnel policy in the I.T.D.P. areas.

पाँचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में ग्रामों का विद्युतीकरण और विद्युतचालित पम्पों का लगाया जाना

1348. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या ऊर्जा उपभोग की राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी में सरकार ने विचार व्यक्त किया था कि पांचवी पचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक 250,000 गांवों को बिजली दी जायगी तथा 40 लाख विद्युतचालित पम्प गांवों मे लगाय जायेंगे ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक कितने गांवों में बिजली पहुंच चुकी है और कितने विद्युतचालित पम्प लगाये गय है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) देश में 30 नवम्बर, 1975 तक 1,70,274 गांव विद्युतीकृत हो चुके हैं और 27,17,223 पम्प सेटों को बिजली दी जा चुकी है ।

केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो द्वारा राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के खिलाफ दायर किए गए मामले

1349. **डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने हाल ही में 64 ऐसे राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने की सिफारिश की है जो विभिन्न विभागों में उच्च पदों पर हैं ,

(ख) उन विभागों के नाम क्या हैं जिनमें ये अधिकारी काम कर रहे हैं , और

(ग) केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने जुलाई से नवम्बर, 1975 तक कितने राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के खिलाफ मुकद्दमे दायर किये ?

गृह मंत्रालय, कार्मिक और प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्यमंत्री (श्री ओम मेहता) : (क) केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरों ने नवम्बर, 1975 माह के दौरान 64 राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध जांच के मामलों में जांच पड़ताल / खुली जांच की कार्यवाही आरम्भ की ।

(ख) ये अधिकारी निम्नलिखित मंत्रालयों/विभागों में कार्य कर रहे हैं —

रक्षा मंत्रालय	6 अधिकारी
वित्त मंत्रालय	5 ,,
रेल मंत्रालय	3 ,,
निर्माण तथा आवास मंत्रालय	2 अधिकारी
वाणिज्य मंत्रालय	1 ,,
सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्रालय	1 ,,
नौवहन तथा परिवहन मंत्रालय	1 ,,
गृह मंत्रालय	1 ,,
डाक तथा तार	3 ,,
सार्वजनिक उपक्रम	32 ,,
संघ राज्य क्षेत्र	6 ,,
नागालैंड राज्य सरकार	3 ,,
	64

(ग) केन्द्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरों ने जुलाई 1975 से नवम्बर, 1975 तक 57 राजपत्रित अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध न्यायालयों में आरोप पत्र दायर किए ।

एच० एम० टी० घड़ियां

1350. **डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय** : क्या **उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में हिन्दुस्तान मशीन टूल्स के बंगलौर एवं श्रीनगर स्थित कारखाना में 1974–75 तथा 1975–76 में दिसम्बर तक कितनी घड़ियों का निर्माण किया गया; और

(ख) हिन्दुस्तान मशीन टूल्स ने 1974–75 और 1975–76 में कितनी घड़ियों का निर्यात किया तथा यह निर्यात किन-किन देशों को किया गया ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री टी० ए० पाई) : (क) हिन्दुस्तान मशीन टूल्स द्वारा 1974–75 तथा 1975–76 (दिसम्बर, 1975 तक) में बनाई गई घड़ियों की संख्या इस प्रकार है —

	1974–75	1975–76 (दिसम्बर, 1975 के अंत तक)
घड़ी कारखाना I और II बंगलौर	3,49,210	3,10,475
घड़ी कारखाना III श्रीनगर	1,02,006	93,956
	4,51,216	4,04,431

(ख) उस अवधि में निर्यात की गई घड़ियों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है :—

1974–75	8,768
1975–76 (दिसम्बर, 1975 तक)	7,990

ये घड़ियां आस्ट्रेलिया, बंगलादेश, भूटान, कनाडा, पूर्वी अफ्रीका, ईरान, कीनिया, मलेशिया, मेक्सिको, फिलीपीन, श्रीलंका, यू ए ई, ब्रिटेन, अमरीका, पश्चिम जर्मनी, न्यूजीलैंड, युगोस्लाविया, नॉर्वे, बर्मा, नाइजीरिया, ओमान, जाम्बिया और युगांडा को निर्यात की गई थी।

Rural Electrification Schemes in Maharashtra

1351. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes proposed to be taken up by the Rural Electrification Corporation during 1975-76 and 1976-77 in Maharashtra and estimated cost thereof; and

(b) the progress made in the implementation of these schemes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd., has during 1975-76 so far sanctioned eleven rural electrification schemes of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for a total loan assistance of Rs 4.97 crores. Sanction of more schemes during the remaining period of 1975-76 and in 1976-77 will depend upon the number of rural electrification schemes sponsored by the State Electricity Board and approved by the Corporation in accordance with the norms and guidelines prescribed by it.

(b) The schemes are phased for completion over a period ranging upto 5 years and are still not off the ground.

बिहार एवं मध्य प्रदेश में विभिन्न कोयला खानों से कोयला निकालना

1352. **डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय** : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बकुण्ठपुर, चिरमिरी, कोरबा तथा विश्रामपुर कोयला खानों से वर्ष 1975 के दौरान कितना कोयला निकाला गया ;

(ख) गत वर्ष की तुलना में यह मात्रा कितनी अधिक है , और

(ग) बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश में (सरकारी क्षेत्र को) विभिन्न कोयला खानों से कितना कोयला निकाला गया ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (प्रो० त्रिवेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) से (ग). चालू वर्ष (दिसम्बर. 1975 तक) के दौरान निकाले गए कोयले के बारे में अपेक्षित जानकारी गत वर्ष की समान अवधि के तुलनात्मक आंकड़ों सहित, निम्नलिखित सारणी में दी गई है :—

(आंकड़े लाख टनों में)

खान/क्षेत्र का नाम	वर्ष		अन्तर
	1975–76 (दिसम्बर, तक)	1974–75 (दिसम्बर तक)	
बैकुण्ठपुर . . .	13.89	11.41	(+)2.48
चिरिमिरी . . .	22.34	20.89	(+)1.45
कोरबा . . .	27.98	26.69	(+)1.29
विश्रामपुर . . .	8.26	7.42	(+)0.84
जोड़ . .	72.47	66.41	(+)6.06
बिहार . . .	272.60	243.63	
मध्य प्रदेश . . .	129.68	117.98	

Setting up of Sainik School at Sujanpur Tihra

1353. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the latest position regarding the setting up of Sainik School at Sujanpur Tihra in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): State Government are in the process of selecting a site to set up a Sainik School in Himachal Pradesh.

Acquiring Defence equipment from G.D.R.

1354. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the visit of the Defence Minister of G.D.R., General Hoffman to India resulted in any agreement on co-operation between the two countries in the sphere of Defence; and

(b) whether there are prospects of acquiring any defence equipment from G.D.R. on favourable terms?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b). The visit was in the nature of a goodwill visit. There was general exchange of information on matters of mutual interest. The possibilities of cooperation in specific fields can be examined in due course.

Supply of Foreign equipment to New Division of Bangladesh Army

1355. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any information to the effect that the new divisions being raised for the Bangladesh army are being supplied with U.S., Chinese or Pakistani equipment; and

(b) whether Bangladesh services' personnel are continuing to be trained in Indian military academies and defence institutions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

मध्य प्रदेश में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण के लिये स्वीकृत की गई धनराशि

1356. **श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित :** क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1975–76 में मध्य प्रदेश राज्य को ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण के लिये कुल कितनी धनराशि मंजूर की गई और अब तक वास्तव में कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई ;

(ख) उक्त योजनाओं की क्रियान्विति में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ग) वर्ष 1975–76 में ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम द्वारा कितनी नई योजनायें आरम्भ की जायेंगी ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : (क) और (ख). ग्राम विद्युतीकरण निगम लिमिटेड ने 1975–76 के दौरान अब तक मध्य प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड की कुल 10.43 करोड़ रुपये की ऋण सहायता वाली 25 ग्राम विद्युतीकरण योजनाएं स्वीकृत की है। इन योजनाओं से 1108 ग्रामों में 13,260 पम्पसेटों और 472 लघु उदयोगों को बिजली मिलेगी।

ये योजनाएं 5 वर्ष की अवधि में विभिन्न चरणों में पूरी की जाएंगी। निगम द्वारा स्वीकृत की गई ऋण की राशि का भुगतान भी किस्तों में किया जाएगा। राज्य बिजली बोर्ड ने अब तक 5 योजनाओं के लिए 1.30 करोड़ रुपये की पहली किस्त ले ली है। इन योजनाओं पर कार्य अभी आरम्भ नहीं हुआ है।

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य बिजली बोर्ड को 1975–76 की शेष अवधि के लिए ऋण-सहायता देने की बात उस राज्य द्वारा आयोजित योजनाओं की संख्या पर तथा अपने निर्धारित मानदण्डों और मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों के अनुसार इन योजनाओं का अनुमोदन निगम द्वारा किए जाने पर निर्भर होगी।

मध्य प्रदेश में उद्योगों के लिये आवंटन

1357. **श्री गंगा चरण दीक्षित :** क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश की वर्ष 1975–76 की योजना में बड़े और मध्यम उद्योगों के लिये कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई; और

(ख) आवंटित धनराशि से क्या कार्यवाही की गई ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री बी० पी० मौर्य) : (क) और (ख) . मध्य प्रदेश की वार्षिक योजना में 1975–76 के लिए "बड़े और मध्यम उद्योगों" के लिए 262.54 लाख रुपए के पूंजी परिव्यय की व्यवस्था की गई थी। इनमें से वर्ष 1975–76 में 264.24 लाख रुपए का व्यय पूर्वानुमानित है।

वर्ष 1975–76 में स्वीकृत योजना पूंजी परिव्यय और पूर्वानुमानित व्यय का योजनावार ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है :—

(लाख रुपए में)

	योजना का नाम	1975–76 के लिए स्वीकृत योजना परिव्यय	1975–76 के दौरान पूर्वानुमानित व्यय
1.	मध्य प्रदेश राज्य उद्योग निगम के शेयरों में निवेश की गई पूंजी . . .	30.00	30.00
2.	औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों को पूरा करने के लिए (मूल सुविधाएं)	110.71	99.21
3.	औदयोगिक परियोजना रिपोर्ट और सर्वेक्षण .	5.78	5.78
4.	म० प्र० औद्योगिक विकास निगम के शेयरों में निवेश की गई राशि . . .	100.00	115.00
5.	म० प्र० कपड़ा निगम . . .	0 25	0.25
6.	उद्योगों को छूट . . .	12.75	12.75
7.	कमांड क्षेत्रों में कृषि उद्योगों का विकास .	0.55	0.55
8.	इलैक्ट्रोनिक्सों का विकास . .	2.50	0.70
	योग . .	262.54	264.24

Newsprint Stocks

1358. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI**: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether newsprint stocks are not sufficient for the next year; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) In accordance with firm contracts entered into by the State Trading Corporation with foreign suppliers, together with the indigenous production, it will be possible to meet the requirements of newspapers for the year 1976-77.

(b) Does not arise.

Production in Hindustan Lever Ltd. Beyond Capacity

1359. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE**: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Balance-Sheet of Hindustan Lever

Limited showing its production figures for 1974;

(b) the date on which increases over and above the installed capacity of Hindustan Lever Limited were authorised;

(c) the actual quantum of production and the places where this production was actually conducted by the Company;

(d) the ways and means of collecting the local taxes like octroi and Central taxes on the excess production; and

(e) the basis for such an authorisation to a foreign subsidiary cashing upon its international brand names for sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) to (c) M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited are engaged in the manufacture of a number of items concerning various authorities. As the Hon'ble Member has not specified the items, for which the requisite information has been sought, it is not possible to collect and furnish the precise information.

Opening of a Radio Station at Jamshedpur

1360. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a Radio Station at Jamshedpur, Bihar; and

(b) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Shri Dharam Bir Sinha): (a) and (b). Due to constraint in resources it is not possible to take up the project during the current Plan Period.

Smuggling of Arms from Pakistan

1361. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported smuggling of huge quantity of arms from Pakistan which ultimately reach the hands of Naxalites, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and remedial measures taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). Some cases of smuggling from across the border have been detected, but no instance of smuggled firearms reaching the Naxalites has so far come to notice. The Government is aware of the possibilities and the enforcement agencies are also alert.

Seizure of Document on Subversion Plan from Naxalite Hide-Out in Bihar

1362. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any document on subversion plan has been seized recently from Naxalite hide-out in Bihar;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plan; and

(c) the number of persons apprehended in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) to (c). According to information received from the Government of Bihar, considerable volume of Naxalite literature has been seized from Naxalite hide-outs during recent anti-Naxalite operations in Bhojpur and Madhubani

districts. These documents refer to the ideology of Naxalites for capturing power by means of armed struggle for which they intend to establish revolutionary committees and Guerilla squads in villages besides snatching arms from military units, police and also private individuals. 19 Naxalites have been arrested in this connection

Re-validation of Letters of Intent

1363. SHRI M C DAGA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters of intent re-validated during the year 1975 and for what period,

(b) the number of letters of intent lapsed during the said year and the reasons therefor, and

(c) the number of parties allowed the change of location, indicated in letters of intent and how many were not allowed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B P. MAURYA): (a) Letters of Intent are re-validated by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments As per records maintained in the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, 1003 letters of intent were re-validated during the year 1975 for periods ranging from six months to one year.

(b) According to the information available with the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals, 348 letters of intent lapsed or were surrendered and cancelled during the year 1975. A letter of intent lapses if the party fails to fulfil the conditions laid down therein within the time allowed.

(c) Out of 46 complete applications for change of location filed under the IDR Act, in 1975, 8 have been approved and 12 rejected upto the end of the year.

आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिये चलाई गई प्रायोगिक परियोजनाएं (पाइलट प्रोजेक्ट्स)

1364. **श्री मूलचन्द डागा :** क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा देश के आदिवासी पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिये, विशेषकर राजस्थान में किन-किन स्थानों पर प्रायोगिक परियोजनायें चलाई गई है ;

(ख) पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में उन पर अलग-अलग कितना-कितना व्यय किया जायगा , और

(ग) वहां क्या-क्या मुख्य काम शुरु किये जायेंगे ?

योजना मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आइ० के० गुजराल) : (क) से (ग). आदिवासी पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए आंध्र प्रदेश के श्रीकाकुलम जिले में, बिहार के सिंहभूम जिले में और उड़ीसा के गंजाम, कोरापुट, क्योंझर और फूलबनी जिलों में मार्गदर्शी परियोजनाएं शुरू की गई थीं । राजस्थान में कोई मार्गदर्शी परियोजना शुरू नहीं की गई । पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के पहले दो वर्षों में इन पर 4.23 करोड़ रूपये खर्च होने की संभावना है । इन परियोजनाओं के अन्तर्गत मुख्य रूप से कृषि विकास, उद्यान, भूमि विकास, भूमि संरक्षण के उपाय, लघु सिंचाई, पशु पालन, सहकारी समितियों को बढ़ावा देना, आदिवासियों का कर्ज से छुटकारा, भूमि की वापसी, सुसज्जित सड़कों का निर्माण और कृषि व छोटे वन उत्पादों पर आधारित ग्राम उद्योगों के प्रोत्साहन से संबंधित काम किए जाने है । प्रत्येक परियोजना 10,000 आदिवासी परिवारों या 50,000 आदिवासियों के लिए होगी ।

Release of Mallappuram Uphill Firing Range for Development of Town

1365. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has been requesting to release the Malappuram Uphill Firing Range for the development of the Town;

(b) whether the State Government has suggested another place for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (Shri Bansi Lal): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been agreed that the Uphill Firing Range and Haig Barracks at Mallapuram would be handed over to the Government of Kerala in exchange of land of equivalent value at Trivandrum.

Development of Small Scale Industries in Kerala

1366. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has formulated some comprehensive schemes for the development of the Small Scale industries in the State;

(b) if so, the main features of the schemes;

(c) whether any financial help has been sought from the Central Government for this purpose; and

(d) if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (Shri A. P. Sharma): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-10259/76*].

Setting up of a Television Centre in Andhra Pradesh

1367. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a T.V. Centre in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to go on the air?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Shri Dharam Bir Sinha): (a) to (c). As a part of the scheme to provide TV service to about 40 per cent of the SITE areas on conclusion of the present Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, it is proposed to set up a T. V. transmitter at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. The transmitter is likely to go on the air in early 1977.

International Film Festival

1368. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Film Festival has been conducted in Bombay this year;

(b) whether the lavish expenditure by Film Finance Corporation on

foreign delegates' accommodation and air fare has caused resentment among the low-budget film-makers and

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Shri Dharam Bir Sinha): (a) Yes, Sir. A Festival of Films International was held in Bombay from January 2—15, 1976.

(b) The hospitality extended to foreign delegates has been in accordance with the normal standard adopted in the majority of the International Film Festivals all over the world Government are not aware of any resentment by the "low-budget film makers" regarding the expenses incurred by the Film Finance Corporation on the accommodation and air fare of the foreign delegates participating in the Film Festival

(c) Does not arise.

Premature Retirement of Officers attaining age of 50

1369. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether screening of cases of personnel, who have attained the age of 50, resulted in premature retirement of number of persons, and

(b) if so, the break-up of such cases Ministry-wise/Department-wise?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Shri Om Mehta): (a) Yes. Sir. Cases of all Government servants are reviewed as and when they attain the age of 50/55 years or complete 30 years of service, as the case may be, in order to weed out those who have outlived their utility or whose integrity is doubtful.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See No. LT-10260/76*].

Newspapers and Journals run by Business Houses and Advertisements given to them

1370. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of business Houses which are now running newspapers and other journals and circulation figures, and

(b) how much Government advertisement had been given to these newspapers and journal in 1975?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (Shri Dharam Bir Sinha): (a) Information relating to ownership, circulation and other details of newspapers is contained in the 17th Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India "Press in India-1973".

(b) It is felt that effort involved in the collection of the information required will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

Taking over of Institutions run by Anand Marg

1371. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken over all the educational and other institutions run by Anand Marg.

(b) if so, how many of them and in which states;

(c) whether all such institutions are not taken over so far, and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri F. H. Mohsin): (a) to (d). According to information available, 5 schools run by Anand Marg have been taken over in Assam, 3 in Punjab, 5 in Delhi and 1 in Goa, Daman and Diu. Information from some States and Union Territories is awaited.

Pension to freedom fighters of Punnapra-Vayalar and Telengana Strugglers

1372. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision regarding the grant of pension to freedom fighters who took part in Punnapra-Vayalar Struggle in Travancore against princely rule, and Telengana armed uprising against the Nizam of Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (Shri F. H. Mohsin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

प्रधान मंत्री के 20-सूत्री आर्थिक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों को रोजगार

1373. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :**

श्री पी० गंगादेव :

क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा घोषित 20-सूत्री आर्थिक कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों को रोजगार प्रदान करने की कोई योजना बनाई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी मुख्य बातें क्या है ?

योजना मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आई० के० गुजराल) : (क) और (ख). प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा घोषित 20-सूत्री कार्यक्रम में ऐसी कई महत्वपूर्ण स्कीमें है जिससे रोजगार के अवसर सुलभ कराने में काफी तेजी आएगी। इस संबंध में, राष्ट्रीय एप्रेन्टिसशिप स्कीम, 50 लाख हैक्टर की अतिरिक्त सिंचाई क्षमता बढ़ाना, सूखा-प्रवृत्त क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई की सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के लिए और पता लगाए गए भूमिगत जल संसाधनों का उपयोग करने के लिए सर्वेक्षण करना, देशभर में माल, परिवहन के लिए राष्ट्रीय परमिट स्कीम, हाथ-करघा उद्योग का विकास और वृद्धि, त्वरित बिजली विकास कार्यक्रम और सुपर-थर्मल बिजली घरों की स्थापना आदि का उल्लेख किया जा सकता है।

स्वतंत्रता सेनानी संसद् सदस्यों को ताम्रपत्र प्रदान किया जाना

1374. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने स्वतंत्रता सेनानी संसद सदस्यों को ताम्रपत्र प्रदान करने का बहुत पहले निर्णय किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक उन्हें ताम्रपत्र न दिये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार का उन्हें ताम्रपत्र कब तक देने का विचार है ?

गृह मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री एफ० एच० मोहसिन) : (क) से (ग). स्वतंत्रता सेनानी संसद् सदस्य ताम्रपत्र प्राप्त करने के लिये पात्र है और उनमें से अनेक राज्यो तथा संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में समय-समय पर आयोजित किये गये समारोहों मे ताम्रपत्र प्राप्त कर चुके है। उन ससद् सदस्यो की सुविधा के लिये जिन्होने अभी तक ताम्रपत्र प्राप्त नहीं किये हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार का नई दिल्ली में एक समारोह में उन्हें ताम्रपत्र प्रदान करने का विचार था। पात्र संसद सदस्यो की जिन्होने अभी तक ताम्रपत्र प्राप्त नही किये है सूचिया राज्य सरकारो के परामर्श से पूरी की जा रही हैं और इसके बाद ही इस प्रकार के एक समारोह का आयोजन किया जा सकता है।

पश्चिम बंगाल के डलकोला में ताप बिजली घर

1375. **श्री रामावतार शास्त्री** : क्या ऊर्जा मत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पश्चिम बंगाल के डलकोला में ताप बिजली घर की स्थापना करने की योजना तैयार की थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबधी तथ्य क्या हैं ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (प्रो० सिद्धेश्वर) प्रताप : (क) और (ख) : डलकोला में केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र में 120–120 मेगावाट के दो यूनिट प्रतिष्ठापित करने के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने सभाव्यता रिपोर्ट तैयार की हैं। राज्य सरकार को सूचित कर दिया गया था कि डलकोला मे केन्द्रीय विद्युत् उत्पादन परियोजना को कोई गजाइश नही है और न इसका विचार राज्य की योजना के अन्तर्गत कर सकते हैं। अभी तक कोई औपचारिक निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

मंत्रालयों में हिन्दी सलाहकार समितियां

1376. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या गृह मत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) किन-किन मत्रालय में हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति का अब तक गठन नही किया गया है ;

(ख) इसके क्या कारण है ; और

(ग) कब तक इस प्रकार की समिति का गठन कर लिया जाएगा ?

गृह मंत्रालय कार्मिक और प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओम मेहता) : (क) से (ग). केन्द्रीय सरकार की यह नीति रही है कि हिन्दी सलाहकार समितिया केवल कुछ चुने हुये मत्रालयों मे ही बनाई जाए। इस विषय मे निर्णय इन बातो पर निर्भर करता है कि (1) मत्रालय का कार्यक्षेत्र किस प्रकार का है, (2) जनता से उसका कितना सपर्क रहता है और (3) उस मत्रालय के राजकीय प्रयोजनों मे हिन्दी के प्रगामी प्रयोग की कितनी सभावना है।

प्रारम्भ मे ऐसी समितियां केवल गृह मत्रालय, शिक्षा मत्रालय, विधि मत्रालय तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में बनाई गई थीं। पहले तीन मत्रालयो मे समितियां बनाने का कारण यह था कि 27 अक्तूबर, 1960 के राष्ट्रपति के आदेश के अन्तर्गत इन मत्रालयो को संघ के शासकीय कार्य में हिन्दी के प्रगामी प्रयोग को बढ़ाने के लिये आरम्भिक उपाय करने के लिये कुछ विशेष कार्य दिये गये थे। शेष

मंत्रालय का जनता से संचार के साधनों पर नियंत्रण होने से वहां भी समिति गठित करना उचित समझा गया ।

कुछ समय बाद यह अनुभव किया गया कि जिन मंत्रालयों के हिन्दी भाषी क्षेत्रों मे बहुत से दफ्तर हैं और जिनका जनता से काफी संपर्क है, उन मंत्रालयों मे भी हिन्दी सलाहकार समितिया गठित की जानी चाहिए। इसलिये 20 दिसम्बर, 1972 की अपनी बैठक मे केन्द्रीय हिन्दी समिति ने रेल मंत्रालय तथा डाक तार विभाग मे हिन्दी सलाहकार समितिया गठित करने का निर्णय किया । साथ ही रक्षा तथा विदेश मत्रालयो मे ऐसी समितिया गठित करने पर भी विचार किया गया । परन्तु इन मत्रालयो मे हिन्दी के काम की देखभाल करने के लिये केन्द्रीय हिन्दी समिति की उप समितिया बनाना अधिक समीचीन समझा गया । बाद मे कृषि मत्रालय ने यह अनुभव किया कि वहा भी हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति बनाना चाहिए और उस मत्रालय के कार्य को देखते हुये यह निर्णय लिया गया कि वहा भी समिति गठित की जाए।

हिन्दी सलाहकार समितिया द्वारा किये गये काम के परिणामस्वरूप इन सभी मत्रालयों मे हिन्दी मे कामकाज मे बहुत वृद्धि हुई और उसे देखते हुये केन्द्रीय हिन्दी समिति ने अपनी 9 अप्रैल, 1975 की बैठक मे निम्न-लिखित मत्रालयो मे भी हिन्दी सलाहकार समितियां बनाने का निर्णय किया —

(1) वित्त मत्रालय (2) वाणिज्य मत्रालय (3) स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय (4) उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मत्रालय (5) ऊर्जा मत्रालय (6) पैट्रोलियम और रसायन मत्रालय (7) पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय (8) संचार और परिवहन मंत्रालय ।

इन मंत्रालयों में हिन्दी सलाहकार समितियां गठित करने के लिये कार्यवाही जारी है ।

गृह मंत्रालय की हिन्दी सलाहकार समिति की उप समिति ने (1) पूर्ति तथा पुनर्वास मत्रालय (2) इस्पात और खान मत्रालय तथा (3) श्रम मत्रालय के दौरों के बाद यह अनुभव किया कि इन मत्रालयों मे भी ऐसी समितिया बनाना उपयोगी होगा । अत: इन मत्रालयो मे भी समितियों के गठन के लिये कार्यवाही की जा रही है।

इस प्रकार जहा भी जरूरत महसूस की गई, राजकीय कार्यों मे हिन्दी के प्रगामी प्रयोग को बढाने के लिये, हिन्दी सलाहकार समितिया बनाई गई हैं या बनाई जा रही है ।

आपात स्थिति की घोषणा के बाद आई०ए० एस० तथा आई०सी०एस० अधिकारियों की सेवा-निवृत्ति अथवा निलम्बन

1377 **श्री संकर दयाल सिंह** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आपात स्थिति की घोषणा के बाद प्रत्येक राज्य मे कितने आई० ए० एस० और आई० सी० एस० अधिकारियों को सेवानिवृत्त या निलम्बित किया गया ; और

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध मे राज्य सरकारो को कोई निदेश दिये हैं ?

गृह मंत्रालय, कार्मिक और प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग तथा संसदीय कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री) ओम मेहता :

(क) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा जाता है जिसमें इस सम्बन्ध में सूचना दी गई है। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिये संख्या एल० टी०-10261/76]

(ख) राज्य सरकारों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे अपने संवर्गों के भारतीय प्रशासन सेवा के ऐसे सभी अधिकारियों, जिनमें भारतीय प्रशासन सेवा के आई० सी० एस० सदस्य भी शामिल हैं, के मामलों की पुनरीक्षा करें, जिन्होंने 50 वर्ष की आयु अथवा 30 वर्षों की अर्हक सेवा पूरी कर ली है अथवा पूरी करने वाले हैं, जिससे कि निश्चित रूप से यह जाना जा सके कि क्या वे सेवा में बनाए रखने के योग्य है अथवा नहीं हैं।

Setting up of a Nuclear Power Station in Orissa

1378. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert body has recommended for setting up of a nuclear power station in the Subarnarekha basin in Orissa;

(b) the broad outlines of the report/recommendations forwarded to Government; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Special Cells to deal with Atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis

1379. SHRI P G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atrocities and harassments to the Harijan and Adivasi communities have continued unabated in the country during the year 1975:

(b) whether the Prime Minister's suggestion to the Chief Ministers of various States regarding setting up of special cells for this purpose has been implemented; and

(c) if so, the nature of inquiry and the kind of punishment envisaged and implemented by the said cells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) According to information available, reports of such atrocities have been received in some States during 1975;

(b) The Prime Minister made a suggestion to the Chief Minister in 1973 to consider the setting up of a cell or any suitable machinery to look into the grievances of Harijans, Tribes and Minorities and also to make a special effort to ensure employment of these categories in Government offices, public undertakings etc. special Cells/Committees have accordingly been set up in a number of States.

(c) Special Cells set up to deal with cases of violence against or harassment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are meant to ensure prompt investigation of criminal cases involving specific offences as also effective prosecution of such cases in court.

Use of Breeder Technology for Power Production by Atomic Energy Commission

1380. SHRI D. D DESAI: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Commission has achieved any breakthrough in perfecting breeder technology for power production using thorium; and

(b) if so, when and where the first atomic power plant using that technology will be constructed?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b): Thorium itself is a fertile and not fissile material. It can be converted into fissile U-233 in fast breeder reactors using thorium fuel blankets This U-233 can be used to go over to a thorium breeder cycle in the fourth stage of our nuclear power production. Since this stage comes sequentially after the stage of setting up commercial fast breeder reactors, decisions on the construction of which have yet to be taken, part (b) of the question cannot be answered at this stage.

Diversification of Production by Automobile Factories

1381. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed automobile factories to diversify production; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b): Government has authorised the passenger car units to diversify their production to other vehicles, industrial machinery and machine tools.

Use of Intermediate Technology in Planning

1382. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increasing demand for use of intermediate technology in planning for development to avoid the pitfalls of high level industrialisation; and

(b) the steps taken to utilise and promote intermediate technology in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b): The need for technology appropriate to indigenous conditions has been appreciated by the Government in planning for economic growth and technological self-reliance Programmes to improve technology in Khadi and Village Industries have been identified and are given in draft Science & Technology Plan (Vol. I & II) 1974-79 which was placed on the Table of the House on 26th March, 1974. Seventeen Research Design and Development Committees have been set up for solving Technical and Engineering problems encountered in small and medium scale industries. An appropriate technology cell has been set uo in the Ministry of Industry & Civil Supplies. The appropriate technology for a few specific items viz. agricultural implements and tools, small size diary plants, ceramics including potteries and glass-ware, food processing and fruit preservation etc. under conditions prevailing in the country are being examined. The centralized production system and small scale industry using appropriate technology are both necessary for overall industrialization and economic growth of the country.

Report of the Committee on Coal Prices

1383 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's Committee on coal prices have submitted their report;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) how long coal industry would be given subsidy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD (a) and (b). The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Coal Prices had submitted an interim report. After considering the same, the coal prices were revised with effect from first July, 1975 The Committee has not yet submitted its final report.

(c) Subsidy is admissible to the coal industry and others for schemes of conservation and development of coal mines, for grant of stowing materials and other assistance for stowing operations and for execution of stowing and other operations for the safety in coal mines, research etc, under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974. There is at present no proposal to discontinue this scheme of subsidy.

Joint Sector Projects

1384 SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state the state-wise break up of joint sector projects which have come up in various States of India and the nature of industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): On the basis of information received from State Governments, state-wise break-up of number of Joint Sector Units in production is set out below:—

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of Indl Units
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Gujarat	2
3	Haryana	2
4.	Kerala	3
5.	Meghalaya	2
6.	Nagaland	1
7.	Punjab	4
8.	Tamil Nadu	3
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3
10	West Bengal	1

These relate to industries such as Ammonia/Urea, Dry Cell Batteries Drugs, Enamelled Wires, Glass Bottles Plywood, Steel Billets, Switch Gears and Television Sets etc.

Launching of a Satellite 'Apple into Space' with Foreign Assistance

1385 SHRI H N. MUKERJEE Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to launch a satellite called 'Apple into Space' with foreign assistance in 1978; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Ariane is the European launcher currently under development. In response to an invitation received from the European Space Agency for proposals for flying a passenger pay-load on the Ariane

development flights, proposals have been sent to European Space Agency for a small communication satellite as a lateral passenger or if this is not possible, to carry a communication payload as a non autonomous passenger on board one of the experimental flights. Details of the project designated Ariane Passenger Pay Load Experiment (APPLE) are being worked out.

Rationalising the Price of Newspapers

1386. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1973 and 1974, some leading English newspapers having All-India coverage, had reduced the number of pages by one-half to one third but continued to charge the same price for their newspapers and increased the price of the newspapers subsequently;

(b) if so, the names of the newspapers and the facts of subsequent price increase; and

(c) the steps being proposed to rationalise the price of newspapers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) During 1973-74, some newspapers had made certain reduction in the number of pages and increased the prices of newspapers.

(b) The names of some of these leading English newspapers are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10262/76]; Details of price increases are being obtained and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The M.R.T.P. Commission has issued four notices of inquiry under section 10(a) (iv) of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 on 26th August, 1975 to some newspaper companies and others in respect of certain trade practices alleged to be indulged in by them and involving 'Common pricing by acting in concert'.

While the proceedings are still in progress in the Restrictive Trade Practices inquiry Nos. 46 and 47 of 1975 the respondents in the inquiry Nos. 48 and 49 of 1975 have submitted to the Commission's orders passed on 18th December 1975 restraining and prohibiting them from acting in concert between themselves and with others in the matter of fixing or increasing the prices of newspapers published by them.

Merit Examination for Jr. Class I and II Posts through U.P.S.C.

1387. SHRI N. K SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold a national merit examination for Jr. Class I and Class II posts through the Union Public Service Commission to cater to the needs of jobs all over India;

(b) the steps being taken to bring about qualitative improvements in the examinations to bring out high talent from amongst the examinees;

(c) by what time this proposal is expected to be implemented; and

(d) whether State Governments have also been asked to take advantage of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (d): Certain broad proposals for holding National Merit Examinations in various disciplines

at different levels of education have been received from the U.P.S.C., which had recommended that these examinations should also form the basis for recruitment to various jobs In view of the very complex issues involved, the proposals, in all their ramifications, are now being examined by the Central Government. It is difficult to suggest any precise time for the finalisation of these proposals The State Governments have not so far been consulted.

Disposal of Scrap by Ordnance Units

1388. SHRI VASANT SATHE
SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of disposal of scrap by the ordnance units by auction system is being exploited by well organised groups of bidders in connivance with the concerned officers;

(b) if so, whether any complaint has been received and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to review the present disposal system of scrap by ordnance units with a view to ensure better price for the scrap; and

(d) what is the total quantity and value of scrap disposed by the ordnance units during 1975?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b): No, Sir. There are sufficient safeguards in the present system to prevent such exploitation. However, some complaints are received from time to time. They are duly investigated and suitable action taken, wherever necessary.

(c) The procedure for disposal is reviewed from time to time and a review is currently under way.

(d) An amount of Rs. 393.63 lakhs was realised upto September 1975 on account of sales of salvage scrap stores in the Ordnance stores. The required information for the full year is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price of Escort Tractors

1389 SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state·

(a) whether in the month of November, 1974, Escorts Tractors were sold at controlled price in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the controlled price thereof; and

(c) the prevailing market price of the tractor at that time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A PAI): (a). There was no Statutory Price Control on tractors in November, 1974.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The maximum retail prices of Escorts 335/3036 and Ford-3000 tractors during November, 1974 were as under:

Tractor Model	Price from 1-11-74 to 10-11-74	Price from 11-11-74
	Rs.	Rs.
Escorts 335/3036 .	22,000	36,528
Ford—3000 .	41,100	47,421

Scooter Project in Jammu

1390. SHRI R. S DANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jammu & Kashmir Government has sought financial assistance from the Centre for setting up a new scooter project in Jammu; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has to be decided as a part of the Annual Plan for 1976-77.

Castor Complex at Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh

1391. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oxygen Company, Calcutta has applied for an Industrial Licence to set up an export oriented Castor Complex at Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the main features of this project alongwith the anticipated capital investment and the expected number of persons in direct employment;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Indian Oxygen, anticipating the necessary industrial licence, have already taken preliminary steps for implementation of their project such as finalising the location of their unit at Nagarjuna Sagar (Vijayapuri North) and acquiring the land to the extent of 156 acres; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the grant of industrial licence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Indian Oxygen Company Limited, Calcutta have applied for a licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 for establishment of a new undertaking at Nalgonda Distt. in Andhra Pradesh for manufacture of Castor Oil and Castor Oil derivatives viz. Hydrogenated Castor Oil Fatty acids, Dehydrated Castor Oil fatty acids, Dimer Acid, Polyamides, Castor Cake and Glycerin. The anticipated capital investment up to the final stage of the project is around Rs. 1127 lakhs and the number of persons expected to be employed on the project is about 300.

(c) Government has no information in this regard.

(d) The proposal is under active consideration of Government.

Jute Mill in Srikakulam, A.P.

1392. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letter of intent for setting up a jute Mill at Saluru in Srikakulam District (A.P.) has been issued to the Srikakulam District Girijan Jute Products Co-operative Industries Society;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has now requested the Ministry to transfer that letter of intent in favour of Andhra Pradesh Fibres Ltd; the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation's Joint Sector company;

(c) whether the financial and technical problems involved in setting up this project are too complex and heavy to be solved by the Girijan Cooperative Society; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to comply with the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for the transfer of the letter of intent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that although originally the project was conceived purely as a tribal cooperative project, it was subsequently found that the tribal society might not be able to deal with the complicated financial, administrative and technical aspects of the project.

(d) Government of India informed the Andhra Pradesh Government that it would be more appropriate to issue a fresh letter of intent to the joint sector company, viz. Andhra Pradesh Fibres Ltd. Accordingly, an application has been received in December 1975 from Andhra Pradesh Fibres Ltd. for a licence for the manufacture of jute goods This will be considered and disposed of in due course.

Industrial Estate at Chittaura (U.P.)

1393 SHRI B. R SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any licence has been issued for manufacturing bright bars and some other materials to the Industrial Estate of Chittaura, District Bahraich U.P.; and

(b) if so, whether the work has started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) According to the information supplied by the Directorate of Industries, Uttar Pradesh, no licence has been issued for manufacturing bright bars to the industrial estate of Chittaura, district Bahraich.

(b) Does not arise.

Apprehension of Foreign Exchange Racketeers after Emergency

1394. SHRI JANGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total number of foreign exchange racketeers apprehended throughout the country after the imposition of Emergency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): During the period from 26-6-1975 to 31-12-1975, 35 persons were arrested by the Enforcement Directorate for violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act; and on the basis of the Directorate's proposals 139 persons (including 4 of the arrested persons referred to above) were detained during this period under the COFEPOSA Act.

Discontinuation of Services of some News Agencies by A.I.R.

1395 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All-India Radio has discontinued taking the services of P.T.I , U.N.I., Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati;

(b) if so, how the A.I.R. news broadcasts are going to be supplied with material; and

(c) whether it is proposed to integrate the four news agencies into a single State-controlled agency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) The subscription for news services of Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar was discontinued with effect from 1st January

and 7th January, 1976 respectively and the subscription to PTI and UNI is proposed to be discontinued with effect from 1-2-1976.

(b) It has been decided that the A.I.R. would augment and develop its own reporting strength. Steps have been taken to organise AIR's own sources of collection of news.

(c) No, Sir.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF CENTRAL BOARD FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION FOR 1974-75

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): On behalf of Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution, for the year 1974-75, under sub-section (1) of section 39 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10242/76.]

REVIEWS & ANNUAL REPORTS OF RICHARDSON AND CRUDDAS (1972) LTD., BOMBAY AND JESSOP & CO. LTD., CALCUTTA FOR 1974-75 AND NOTIFICATIONS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES, 1971, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) (a) Review by the Government on the working of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Bombay, for the year 1974-75.

(b) Annual Report of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Bombay, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10243/76].

(ii) (a) Review by the Government on the working of the Jessop and Company Limited, Calcutta for the year 1974-75.

(b) Annual Report of the Jessop and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-10244/76].

(2) (i) A copy each of the following Nagaland Government Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under rule 114 of the Defence of India Rules, 1971:—

(a) The Essential Articles (Price Control) Order, 1975, published in Notification No. Supply-3/38/75 dated the 19th July, 1975

(b) The Packaged Commodities (Regulation) Order, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 443(E) in Nagaland Gazette dated 11th September, 1975.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the notification mentioned at (i)(a) above.

(3) A copy of Order No. SPLY/4/5/75 dated the 4th November, 1975 fixing the retail

[Shri A C. George]

price of cement in Nagaland. [*Placed in Library See* No. LT-10245/76.]

REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY *re.* BHARAT SEVAK SAMAJ

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): On behalf of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi version) of the Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Bharat Sevak Samaj [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-10246/76]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 AND REPORT (1974) OF TARIFF COMMISSION *re.* CEMENT INDUSTRY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P MAURYA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The Paper (Control of Production) Amendment Order, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 2551 in Gazette of India dated the 9th August, 1975.

(ii) The Paper (Conservation and Regulation of Use) Amendment Order, 1975, published in Notification No S O 458(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1975

(iii) The Paper (Control of Production) Second Amendment Order, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 487(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1975.

(iv) The Paper (Control of Production) Third Amendment Order, 1975, published in Notification No. S.O. 488(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1975

(v) The Paper (Conservation and Regulation of Use) Second Amendment Order, 1975, published in Notification No S.O. 650(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1975.

(vi) S O 651(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1975. [*Placed in Library. See* No LT-10247/76]

(2) A copy of the Report (1974) (Hindi version) of the Tariff Commission on the comprehensive review of the Cement Industry and revision of fair ex-works prices payable to the producers, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10248/76]

CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES DRAWBACK (1ST AMDT.) RULES, 1976 AND NOTIFICATION UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISE RULES, 1944

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): On behalf of Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (First Amendment) Rules, 1976 (Hindi and English

versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 39(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 1976, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10249/76.]

(2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 76 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 1976, issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944, together with an explanatory memorandum. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10250/76.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION, BOMBAY FOR 1973-74 AND A STATEMENT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay, for the year 1973-74 under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, along with the Statistical Statement.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Report. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10251/76].

REVIEW AND ANNUAL REPORT OF URANIUM CORPORATION OF INDIA JADUGUDA FOR 1974-75 AND RADIATION PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1975

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda for the year 1974-75.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 1974-75 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10252/76].

(2) A copy of the Radiation Protection (Amendment) Rules, 1975 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 19 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 1976, under sub-section (4) of the section 30 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10253/76].

ANNUAL REPORT OF HARYANA AGRO-INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD., CHANDIGARH FOR 1973-74

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1973-74 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10254/76].

ANNUAL REPOTT (PART I) OF REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS FOR INDIA ON PRESS IN INDIA, 1974

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): I beg to lay on the

[Shri Dharambir Sinha]

Table a copy of the Annual Report (Part I) of the Registrar of Newspapers for India on Press in India, 1974. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-10255/76].

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 24th January, 1976, agreed without any amendment to the Maintenance of Internal Security (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd January, 1976."

(ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Bill, 1976 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th January, 1976, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th January, 1976, with the following amendment:—

Enacting Formula

That at page 1, line 1,

for the word "Twenty-sixth" the word "Twenty-seventh" be *substituted.*

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 128 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendment be communicated to this House.

DELHI LAND HOLDINGS (CEILING) AMENDMENT BILL

AS AMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Delhi Land Holdings (Ceiling) Amendment Bill, 1976 which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with an amendment.

12.1½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-NINTH REPORT

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Autonomous Districts): I beg to present the Fifty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIRST REPORT

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): I beg to present the Hundred and ninety-first Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Hundred and seventy-rst Report on New Railway Lines.

12.02 hrs

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

EIGHTY-SEVENTH REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad): I beg to present the following Report

and Minutes of the Estimates Committee:—

(i) Eighty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(ii) Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating to the above Report.

12.2½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (THIRTY-SECOND) AMENDMENT BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI DARBARA SINGH (Hoshiarpur): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI (Nowgong): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Limitation Act, 1963."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Limitation Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted.

12.3½ hrs.

URBAN LAND (CEILING AND REGULATION) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the imposition of a ceiling on vacant land in urban agglomerations, for the acquestion of such land in excess of the ceiling limit, to regulate the construction of buildings on such land and for matters connected therewith, with a view to preventing the concentration of urban land in the hands of a few persons and speculation and profiteering therein and with a view to bringing about an equitable distribution of land in urban agglomerations to subserve the common good.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce the Bill to provide for the imposition of a ceiling on vacant land in urban agglomerations, for the acquisition of such land in excess of the ceiling limit, to regulate the

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*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section II, dated 28-1-76.

[Mr. Speaker]

construction of buildings on such land and for matters connected therewith, with a view to preventing the concentration of urban land in the hands of a few persons and speculation and profiteering therein and with a view to bringing about an equitable distribution of land in urban agglomerations to subserve the common good."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: I introduce* the Bill.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I would request you to kindly consider taking up the Item No. 23 of the agenda for discussion. It is a very lengthy Bill. We need not worry about the amendments now. This Bill was introduced only yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give the amendment by one O'clock.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): In many cases when the Bill comes and we give amendments on the same day they are not accepted. Now, you say that we can give the amendments just now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The second Bill can be discussed and disposed of. I am talking about the third one. We want to put certain amendments because yesterday the Minister said that it was not possible for them to send it to the Select Committee. What I feel is that this Bill should be discussed tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not that this Bill was put down on the agenda only today but it was there on the advance list of 23rd and so, you had the time to give amendments. You cannot disturb the order of the agenda. You can give your amendments upto 2 O'clock but it is very difficult to change the order.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARRYA: Will all these Bills be taken up together or separately?

MR. SPEAKER: Separately.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I think, it is better if we give the amendments by 4 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have it by 3 O'clock.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipur): The sugar price discussion is to be taken up at 6 p.m. or as soon as the preceding items of busines are disposed of. So, we can arrange the business. Two Bills can be disposed of and then we can have discussion on sugarcane price.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: These Bills have to go to the Rajya Sabha and we are short of time. Therefore, there is no question of postponing the Bill.

12.10 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF PRESS COUNCIL (REPEAL) ORDINANCE, 1975 AND PRESS COUNCIL (REPEAL) BILL

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sequeira.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA (Marmagoa): I beg to move:

> "This House disapproves of the Press Council (Repeal) Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 26 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975."

Sir, we have before us here an almost text-book example of an instance where I submit, in a democratic society ordinances should not be enacted

There was a Press Commission which deliberated for long and in detail, and suggested the creation of a Press Council. Government considered this suggestion; and having considered it, came forward with a Bill. Parliament deliberated on this Bill and passed it. The Press Council was not an institution lightly created

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

and yet, Sir, the President in his wisdom has seen fit to repeal it with a stroke of the pen. To my mind, Sir, as I said when I began, this is a textbook case of an instance where an ordinance should not be enacted. The Press Council was established on the 4th July, 1966. And Government comes forward to this House now with this Bill; and the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

> "the Press Council was not able to carry on its functions effectively to achieve the objects for which the Council was established."

This, Sir, is about the most unkind thing that I have ever seen in a Statement of Objects and Reasons in the nine years that I have been in this House. Not only it is unkind; but I submit that it is most completely unjustified and mostly untrue. Since the Press Council was established, there is instance after instance where the Press Council has acted decisively in order to control the excesses that were created within the professional Press There were umpteen instances of newspapers which were warned by the Pres Council with reference to communal rioting. There are instances of newspapers pulled up for yellow journalism. There is one instance where a local paper was carrying out a campaign against a college principal; and it was also pulled up for having exceeded the bounds of reasonable journalism. There is also a case where "The Motherland" was pulled up for obscenity; and if there is one barometer of how effective the Press Council had become, it is the fact that very recently, in the Verghese case, a stay order had to be sought from the High Court—to do what?—to stop the Press Council from even pronouncing itself. I don't think there can be a better proof that the Press Council was doing a good job; when they were left without any power beyond the power of pronouncing itself by this Government, without having any authority in law except the authority of the worth of its own pronouncements, the Press Council was being heard with respect in this country and above all, within the Press itself.

The Government comes forward to the House and in its Reasons, says that the Press Council Act was repealed because on the 31st of December 1975, the term of the current Council was running out and Parliament was not in session. I have only one question to ask. Was the Government not aware that the term of this Council was expiring on the 31st December? What stopped them from coming forward with a Bill before Parliament in its earlier session, if they wanted the Press Council Act to be repealed? The reason that they give is nothing but a self-confession of the lack of foresight that characterizes most actions of this Government.

It is not a nice thing to have to say this—but unfortunately, it has become necessary for us to say it almost every day—that the press is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, and anything that goes against the freedom of this press to express dissent, to criticise and to operate is something which strikes at the root of democracy. And it is our opinion, as we see all these enactments coming forward—we are discussing three of them today—that this Government is bent upon twisting the press into becoming a play-thing of the executive. It would be a very sad day for our country if it were allowed to happen, and it is something that I from this side of the House would like to protest against, with all the vehemence, or whatever you call it, that I can muster.

If the Press Council was not effective, surely there were ways of bringing it to their attention by trying to make it more effective. After all, we know that the Chairman of the Press Council has been nominated by the Government. If it were a bad choice, perhaps we could improve the choice. But to go to destroy an institution that was created after so much clamour

[Shri Erasmo De Sequeira]

and after a parliamentary law, by an Ordinance, this is nothing but the fascist way of doing things.

A big hullabaloo is made about the fact that the Press Council was not able to draw up norms, a code of conduct for the functioning of the press. This, I would like to remind the House, was only one of its functions, not the only one. But why are you surprised? In 26 years we have not been able in this House to codify our own privileges. And wherever any matter comes up for discussion, what do we say? We say that it is better not to do it, it is better to have it to our Committee, to the House, from time to time, to guide and carry parliamentary privilege, forward or sideways, wherever it may be, according to the exigencies of the situation. Does it not also apply to the press? I have no doubt that if I ask the Minister to draft a code of conduct for the press he will do that on a piece of paper in five minutes flat. What I am going to suggest is that will be no code of conduct? It will merely be an attempt at regulation. I say that if the Press Council has not been able to draft a code of conduct for the Press, it probably faced precisely the same difficulties as we find with reference to the codification of our privileges, and these are difficulties which we should, more than anybody else, understand.

I am sorry that this body has been destroyed. Perhaps I should not make this appeal, but I would like to make it only for purposes of record, that Government should rethink, it is not for Government to regulate the press, an institution like the Press Council was the right thing and it is only through the pronouncements that it has been making from time to time that it has been possible in some manner for the press itself to bring a restraint on the press.

I oppose this Ordinance because I think it should be disapproved. I also feel that the Bill is one in a series of measures which can end up only in one direction, towards the destruction of democracy, and as far as the destruction of democracy in this country is concerned, I can assure this Government that nobody can do it, because the people will never allow it.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"This House disapproves of the Press Council (Repeal) Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 26 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to repeal the Press Council Act, 1965, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I have very carefully heard the submissions that have been made to the House by Shri Sequeira. I thought that he would make a long speech but he kept on elaborating on only two points, namely, that in the first place the Ordinance should not have been issued and, secondly, that the Press Council was doing good work.

Hon. Members of this House are well aware that in this very House, when the Press Council Act came for amendment a few months back, there was such a trenchent criticism of the working of this Press Council from all sections of this House. Apart from that, the opinion in the press circles has been almost unanimous that this Press Council has not been able to discharge the functions for which it was conceived. I will, in a short way re-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

call the history of the events by which this Press Council came into existence.

A Bill was passed into an Act by this House which was called the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, and during the currency of this Act, the Second Press Commission met and, after considering various things, expressed the hope that probably by the establishment of the Press Council this kind of Act would become unnecessary. They did not question the necessity of the Act, they did not also dispute the reasons why that Act was brought into being, but they expressed the hope that self-regulation would probably be a better way of attempting to achieve the aims which that Act sought to achieve. Therefore, while the Press Commission's Report was considered by the Government, two main considerations were pronounced, and they were firstly that the Press Council that was going to be set up would be able to achieve a kind of concensus among the pressmen to set up a code of ethics for the press, particularly for the journalists, and secondly that they would be able to pile up a voluminous case law which would act as guidance to various sections of the press, so that all the unhealthy tendencies that were noticed right from the start of our independence, when scurrilous, communal sectional and provocative writings which went directly against the spirit of democracy were coming forth and were being encouraged by various vested interests, could be controlled. It is a well known fact, and it does not require reiteration of any kind, that the code of conduct was not evolved.

Mr. Sequeira should have known better. A code of conduct for the pressmen has nothing to do with, and cannot even remotely be compared with, codifying the privileges of this Hon. House. They are completely two different things. The privileges of this House may be codified, may not be codified, but the privileges are well known, and if they have not been codified in the wisdom of the House, it is merely because we do not want to restrict or bind the privileges of this hon. House and its Members in a narrow circle and, therefore, I think the House has wisely decided not to codify its privileges and leave the matter open for decision from time to time with regard to various requirements.

But in this case the All India newspaper Editors' Conference has been able to suggest a code of conduct and recently eminent editors of India have also suggested a code of conduct. Government is not going to suggest a code of conduct for them because it is not the responsibility of the Government to do so, but the editors and the leading journalists of the country themselves have considered and suggested it, and if they could do it, it does not stand to reason why the Press Council could not do it. The only inference that one can draw is that the Press Council was either not serious about it character or did not attach any importance to the code of conduct which they were supposed to draw up. This code of conduct which has been drawn up by the eminent Central Committee of Editors has been considered by the All India Editors Conference recently and they have made certain suggestions, and I am sure that the editors on their own volition and initiative will be able to evolve a code of conduct which will be considered by the House at the appropriate time. We shall be able to proceed on the basis provided by law to see that this code of ethics can be given the force of law. But, this is a matter which the Hon. House will have to consider in future.

Since the Press Council was not able to do it in 11 years of its existence, we regarded it, and I am sure

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

the overwhelming majority of this House will regard it, as an utter failure of the Press Council to do it. It did not hold out any hope that even in future, they would be able to do that.

About the Case Law, as the hon. Member himself had mentioned, there have been very many cases of relatively minor importance which were taken up by the Press Council. But when we found democracy itself being challenged and being dragged into all kinds of unseemly controversy, the Press Council sat as a mute spectator without taking any initiative which it could easily do under the character, and did not take any step to stop those unhealthy tendencies.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara): Under the statute, somebody has to file complaint to the Press Council. May I know if the Government had brought any distraction to the notice of the Press Council under Section 12 of the Act?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It was not necessary. The Council had the power to take notice of these matter *sue moto* also. There was no binding on them not to take notice of these matters on their own. The hon. Member should have known that there are no such restrictions on them. When they did not do so, the Members of this House as well as the other House and members of the journalist profession felt that not only the expectations on which the Press Council was formed were not being fulfilled but also it was acting in a harmful way in the sense that we put all kinds of hopes, expectations on the body and felt that this will be self-regulatory and it will also induce self-discipline but the matter kept on deteriorating very quickly.

When this matter came to our notice, we thought that we would have a discussion with people connected with the Press Council before taking a decision, and we did discuss this matter with those people who are members of the Press Council. During our discussion, we made the entire position clear. We wanted facts from them; we wanted to hear their side of the story, and after going through the whole matter very carefully, we took a decision. This replies to the point why we did not bring it in the last session of Parliament. We took a decision that this Council should be abolished and we should give a fresh consideration to a discussion how to achieve the aims for which this Press Council was originally set up. This discussion is still going on. Mr. Sequeira is welcome to join it. He can come forward and give his own opinion if he thinks that the same Council with the same Act and same powers or responsibilities should be resurrected; he can say so and give reasons if he thinks that some improvements are possible or should be made. I would request him to do so, as the next step that we want to take is to see that there is no interference in the freedom of Press either from the vested interests, or from the Government. This basic idea is ensured along with the fact that there should be no dereliction from the public sence of duty amongst those who run the press in the country. We do not certainly want the same period of licence and permissiveness that we saw in press in the last five years particularly. It was there also the turn of our Independence when the House in its wisdom had passed the Press Objectionable Matter Act in early '50s. The same thing was coming up in a more virulent and planned manner than before.

I think, it has been a good decision to abolish the Press Council and a body to take its place or a scheme to take its place so that the main objectives that the Second Press Commission had spelt out or the House, from time to time, has been spelling out,

the hon. Members of this House have been spelling out, can be fulfilled in a more effective and proper way. Therefore, I would say that the Ordinance that was issued was not a day too late. It should have been probably done earlier. But since we wanted to discuss this matter throughly with all concerned, we delayed it until it became apparent to us that this action had to be taken.

With these words, I would commend this Bill to the acceptance of the House and I would assure the House that this action was taken after greatest deliberations and consultation amongst the press industry and others who were interested in this matter. There was no haste or no feeling of malice or anything of that kind towards these people who were serving the Press Council or who were office-bearers of the Press Council.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Press Council Act, 1965, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Press Council (Repeal) Bill.

The Minister in his explanation has put all the blame on the Press Council for not achieving the objectives for which the Press Council was constituted. The functions of the Press Council were, the building up of a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards, ensuring on the part of newspapers, etc., the maintenance of high standards of public taste, fostering a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of a citizenship and encouraging the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism. The Press Commission was set up with a view to strengthening the freedom of the press. They suggested all these measures. If we look at the Press Council (Repeal) Bill in an isolated manner, we will not do justice to the Press Council for what it has done. But if we look at all the three Bills together, the Press Council (Repeal) Bill, the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill and the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Bill, what we find is that it is not the Press Council or the people outside the Government who are scuttling the press freedom but it is through these three Bills together the Government are launching a drive towards authoritarian rule, the curtailment of press freedom, striking at the very root of the freedom of the press which has a pivotal position and the vital role to play in strengthening democracy. This is being done by the ruling party and the Government.

The Press Council Act was enacted here, in this Parliament, on the valuable suggestions and recommendations of the Press Commission. They gave so many suggestions. But if we take only the Press Council as suggested by them, we won't do justice to it. After a huge labour, in their wisdom, they gave a very valuable document containing various recommendations the major part of which was not implemented. Now, the Minister and the Government has put all the blame on the Press Council.

This is in order to cover up their own failings and their own failure to implement the major recommendations. A major recommendation was to change the Press structure. Now, we are facing here in India a monopoly newspaper structure, with the monopolists controlling it. The Minister said 'we are thinking about it and we are trying to delink' and so on, but within these few months, they are going on growing—the Indian Express chain, and the Hindustan Times groups have been amalgamated. By these measures, you are not really going to

[Shri Saroj Mukherjee]

delink or curtail the power of the monopolists in our national press, the Indian Press. That is why I said that you have covered up your own failures and are putting all the blame on the Press Council. The Press Council might have done some wrong and might not have done what was expected of it; there may be many such things on record, but there are also good things. We said that its composition is such that it cannnot help the growth of freedom of the press and it cannot help the working journalists' interests and that is why all Parties demanded—and there was a discussion on it—that the Press Council should be re-constituted and so on. Because the Members of the Press Council refused to function properly, there was criticism by the press; the journalists criticised the Press Council's functioning and so on. It is true we said that the Press Council should be reconstituted democratically with representatives of the working journalists with heavy weightage and representatives of all sectors connected with newspaper industry on it. A democratically constituted Press Council would have been better; there is no doubt about it. But Government, instead of going that way—that is, instead of improving the functioning of the Press Council and improving the measures by which press freedom can be strengthened—are going to control the entire press of our country. The Hon Minister said the other day that they were thinking of delinking; but what are they thinking about this for years together? What does delinking mean? We wanted delinking of the press from monopoly interests, vested interests as well as Government interests. That is why it was suggested that public corporations should be formed to run the news agencies and newspapers so that the newspaper industries are not attached to other industries. The big industrial magnates are not ready for such a body—corporations to run the news agencies and newspaper. This is not being done and we do not know when it will be taken up by the Ministry. They don't want to do it; they want to control the Press. Otherwise, what do this pre-censorship, all these Ordinances, etc. all point to? They point to the fact that you cannot do anything and you cannot think freely, write freely. Then, in course of time these working journalist, the editors, etc. won't be able to write freely as they think. That means that after sometime national intellects will be corroded; there will be a collapse of national talent. This is what is going to happen if you continue this process. The process is one of erosion of press freedom.

Day before yesterday our colleague Mr. Bhattacharya was saying that even Mr. Samar Mukherjee's speech in Lok Sabha was sent for pre-censorship and, if you will just see, every page was cut out and of the seven pages, only 3-4 paras remain. Out of 460 lines, only 20 lines have been allowed for printing. This is a speech made in Lok Sabha. When it is taken for pre-censorship, what the officer does is cutting out everything except three or four lines on each page That means, with the permission of the Speaker, a Member can speak here many things, but they cannot be published for the benefit of the people. This is nothing but adopting a double standard The MPs can speak; the Speaker can allow them to speak, but the journalists, editors and reporters cannot write that. There, the common law of the land will be applied, but for us here it will not be applied. Why? Are we so privileged? Why should there be this double-standard? We can speak anything here, but that should not be given to the people by the editors, writers and journalists. If they reproduce them, they will be taken to task, they will be imprisoned. What is this? This is fantastic. That is why I say that the Press Council's major recommendation must be implemented and that the Press Council

Act should not be repealed. A democratically constituted Press Council should be there. The Act should only be amended and not repealed. As to how the Press Council should be constituted and all that, you can have suggestions from Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and from outside editors, journalists and all those persons and then you can proceed smoothly for the strengthening of the freedom of the press.

He said that a code of conduct and ethics for journalists and newspapers was not evolved by the Press Council, but this Central Committee of Editors had so soon evolved a code of conduct. In fact, we said, if a Central Committee of Editors was to be constituted, the editors of the papers run by the Opposition should also be included there, but Mr. Shukla did not even reply to that letter. That means, it consists of only those who have surrendered to the Government, those press barons and editors who have surrendered to the Government. The working journalists say that their owners, the press magnates, are reconciled to censorship. They say that, previously, the owners were censoring, and now the Government is censoring. That is why I say that the talents of the working journalists will be eroded, the whole nation's talent will collapse. 'Previously, the owners were censoring, saying 'Do not write this, do not write that, write like this'; and now the Government is censoring. What will they write then? This is the position.

Therefore, by passing this Bill, you are not going to strengthen press freedom, nor are you going to strengthen democracy. It is a step towards authoritarian rule and scuttling press freedom altogether. You should think over it many times before you take such a decision. These three Bills together will strike at the very root of our press freedom which is the central point, which is the pivotal point, for strengthening democracy. Therefore, I oppose this Bill. This should not be passed by this House. The Press Act should be there, a democratically constituted Press Council should be there, and with that end in view, he should amend the Press Act and he should not repeal it as he seeks to do by this Bill.

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL (Khed): Sir, I rise to oppose the Resolution moved by my good friend, Mr. Sequeria, and I support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

Mr. Sequeira was very emotional and sentimental about the Ordinance which has been promulgated and he felt hurt that the institution of the Press Council would be no more in this country. On the other hand, I should have been hurt because I was a Member of the Press Council for the last seven years. I have known it. I have worked in the Press Council. If I were to tell this House about the functioning of the Press Council and about its acts of commission and omission, the Members opposite including Mr. Sequeira will have to take the resolution back and would support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister.

I do not want to go deep into the history, how the Press Council came into being, but I will have to tell this House that this was really an important recommendation of the Press Commission which was set up in 1952. Before that in this House in early 50s, a discussion did take place about the newspapers, the press industry, the journalists, the code for the journalists etc. and on the pattern of the Royal Commission which was set up in Britain, the Press Commission was set up here in this country under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajadhyaksha and eminent persons like Dr. Zakir Hussain, Acharya Narendra Dev, Shri P. H. Patwardhan

[Shri Anantrao Patil]

Shri T. N. Singh and other big luminaries worked on the Press Commission, and brought out a very important document. The report was submitted in 1954 and an Act in this House was passed in 1965 and in July, 1966 the Press Council was set up.

From the very beginning of this Press Council, when Mr. Justice Mudholkar took over as Chairman, things were not moving properly. One of the main objective of the Press Council was to preserve the freedom of the press and the other objective was to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies. Besides these objectives, there were some functions which were expected to be discharged by the Press Council. I will narrate some of them; these were building up a code of conduct for newspapers and news agencies and journalists, maintenance of high standards of public taste, and encouraging growth of sense of responsibility and public service. The Government, however, felt that the institution of Press Council was not able to carry out its functions effectively to achieve its objectives and, therefore, the Government has taken a decision to repeal the Press Council Act.

The very composition of the Press Council, according to me, was very heterogeneous. Conflicting interests were there on the Press Council including the proprietors of big newspapers, their managers, the working journalists, the editors, some laymen and some people who were not knowing what journalism and what newspaper industry means. What we were doing for the last 6-7 years mainly was that any individual or any citizen of this country could make a complaint to the Press Council that such and such newspaper has published this thing and that he should be brought before the Press Council. The proprietor or the editor of the newspaper used to come and appear before the Press Council; we used to hear him, he used to engage a pleader or an advocate. Because sufficient powers and strength were not given to the Press Council, what we were doing was that we used to only to censure that newspaper. Even if there was a complaint against the State Government, the representative of the State Government used to appear before the Press Council and we used to censure them. And then, it was not obligatory on the newspaper to publish that news of censure.

About the freedom of the press, was the Press Council in a position to maintain or preserve the freedom of the press? Have we ever tried to improve the standards of journalism and journalists? Have we ever looked whether the newspapers or the news agencies are functioning well or not? The Press Commission had said that concentration of ownership was growing and monopolistic and restrictive practices were taking place, but the Press Council was not able to look after all these important matters, and even after two modifications—two committees were appointed so that the Press Council could become more effective, more purposeful and more beneficial—the experience was in the reverse Besides the maintenance of the highest standards of journalism it was also expected of the Press Council that they would help in the matter of recruitment of journalists and that they should be provided with education also, but the Press Council did not do anything about that also.

About the delinking of newspapers and about the diffusion of ownership, the Press Council was asked by the Government to give its opinion, but the Press Council could not give it because as I told you in the beginning, the representation, the members on the Press Council were of such a heterogeneous character that there used to be conflict every time. Once it so happened that the Working Journalists' Federation could not send their members and then what happened? There was a charge on the selection committee of which the hon. Speaker, the

hon. Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court were members and they decided to resign from their positions because there were charges in the newspapers about the method of selection.

So, the institution of Press Council which was very important and which was very essential for the growth of the newspaper industry in the country could not grow in strength and in prestige. So, nothing was left with the government but to repeal the Press Council Act. But I would urge upon the Minister that this is only the beginning, not the end in itself. After the repeal of the Press Council Act what is the government going to do about the recommendations of the Press Commission and about the expectations made by the government of the Press Council?

Now, about the news agencies, the Press Commission has said that there should be a corporation which could be viable and very effective and also that there should be competition. The Press Commission also said that it would be better if there could be two competitive news agencies. The four teleprinter news services which are essential for the country, viz., the PTI, the UNI, Hindustan Samachar and the Samachar Bharati are not economically viable and they were not in a position also to serve the newspapers in the country and give news outside the country to project the image of the country. Especially, the Hindustan Samachar was staffed mainly by the RSS and Jana Sangh people. And the Samachar Bharati was entirely dependent on the public funds. PTI and UNI are managed and controlled by the big newspapers which means the big business houses. I am very glad to know that all these four news agencies have agreed to merge and amalgamate together to form a news corporation. Obviously, the Ministers, Mr. Shukla and his Deputy, Mr. Sinha have taken a lot of effort and pain and made the management and the employees association to come together and they have agreed that a corporation could be formed in this country which will be more useful to the newspapers including small newspapers and also we will be able to project our image outside the country in a better way. The decision of an independent news agency or corporation was taken, I think, at the Lima Conference where it was felt necessary that the non-aligned countries should have not only an international dominant news agency but we should have our own news agencies which will be in a position to cover outside India in a better way.

Now, after setting up this corporation, questions will arise whether this news corporation is going to make a distinction between big newspaper and small newspaper, whether there will be classified news services, whether small and medium newspapers will be charged less and big newspapers charged more, whether on the management and the editorial side, the directors of the existing news agencies and big newspapers are coming and whether directors from small and medium newspapers are also taken—all these things are of detail and I do not want to go into them.

As far as de-linking is concerned, this is a must. Government has been saying for the last four years i. e. from 1971, that they are thinking of de-linking press from the big business houses. Why are we demanding this? This is because the Editor to-day is not free to write in the interest of the nation, in the interest of the people but he writes in the interest of the big businessmen so as to pursue their interests. He is 'His Master's Voice'. Unless this Editor is freed from the pressure of the big business house, I think, there would not be a real freedom of the press. If the Press Council is abolished, this does not affect the freedom of the press. The

Press Council had not been taking proper care of the future of the news paper profession or newspaper industry of the journalists in this country They never thought about these things nor did they give time for it Now, on whom does the responsibility lie? Is it the Government, or bureaucracy or the sovereign Parliament which is going to take care of the newspaper industry or the newspaper profession? In a developing country—a democratic one like India—newspaper is one of the most important and vital media of communication available to a common man in the remotest village What has happened during the last twenty years? There has been a tendency of concentration of newspapers There has been a tendency of monopoly and restrictive practices as mentioned by the Diwakar Committee and again by the Fact Finding Committee Government has to look into them Government has to see that monopoly does not exist in this country More attention should be given to District Regional papers which are called small and medium newspapers Metropolitan papers take the lion's share in the advertisement from the Government and commercial advertisements too Is Government taking any steps to see that the advertisements from the Public Sector Corporations are canalised through DAVP and there is equal distribution of the advertisement? The rates which are quoted by the big newspapers to DAVP are very high They dictate to the Government or to the DAVP—if you accept our rate, then we can accept your advertisement, otherwise not I want to ask the hon Minister as to why he is afraid of big metropolitan newspapers groups or combines

Mr Saroj Mukherjee said, "When we were talking about delinking, and diffusion of Press in this country, a reverse process started and big newspapers started combining themselves" Now the Hindustan Times Group and Indian Express Group have combined together What will happen in this country? Almost in all the State capitals, they will have one paper of their own in each language—in English, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, etc. With the Restrictive Trade Practices, all the small and medium newspapers will have to meet a catastrophe

I may give you an example in this regard Newspaper is taken from Bombay, or from Delhi, in the morning at a distance of 300 to 400 miles in their own vehicles by the big newspaper group Suppose from Bombay, they go to Kolhapur If there are two or three small newspapers over there, people are not prepared to purchase the local paper, because the newspaper given by the big newspaper group has more pages and has less price

Regarding price page schedule, so many times, discussion has taken place. Every time, we are told that the Supreme Court has struck down price-page schedule and Government was, therefore not in a position to do anything

13 00 hrs

The Diwakar Committee suggested that under the Essential Commodities Act you could have done like this, you could have fixed price of newspapers as per the number of pages You could have fixed the quantum and space of advertisements and so on There are various methods by which you could have helped small and medium newspapers All these things should be looked into by the Minister I hope that this will be attended to by him I know about the Minister's efforts in the direction of having this News Corporation which will be very useful, which will increase the prestige of this country, not only within the country, but outside the country I hope he will take it up seriously and take efforts for delinking of the press also and about the healthy growth of

the press industry and not lopsided growth of press industry. I hope he will look into all aspects as far as news is concerned, advertisements are concerned, training of journalists, etc. is concerned. I hope he will see to it that in the next two years or three years the state of affairs in the newspaper industry is entirely changed and we will have a very healthy, progressive, nationalist press in this country. With these words I support the Bill. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I would like to make a request to the House. There are a large number of hon. Members who want to speak and if all of them have to be accommodated, they should be brief, and strictly relevant. We have got only one hour left for this Bill.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Time should be extended.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You should confine yourself only to this Bill. If there are other subjects you can take them up on some other occasion. Anyway, you can continue, Mr. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I rise to support the Bill. I congratulate the Minister for bringing this legislation for abolition of the Press Council. It is not my opinion but even many good newspapers have given their opinion in their editorials. I am reading from the editorial of *National Herald* of 10-1-1976. It says:

> "The ordinances relating to the press which the President has promulgated are, as explained, intended to enable the Press to be 'truly free' and enable it to 'be free from vested interest'."

Then it says:

> 'The ordinance repealing the Press Council Act will be widely welcomed because the Press Council has been more a farce than an effective instrument of self regulation.'

It is not my opinion. It is the opinion given by one of the topmost journalists, Mr. Chalapathi Rao. I have before me the sad experience of a member of the Press Council. Mr. B. K. Joshi. This is what he says:

> 'My five years' membership of the Press Council was a frustrating experience. When I look back on what the council achieved during this period, I feel that much of the time was taken by inconsequential matters and the vital issue of establishing standards of journalistic ethics was left largely untouched. It was an era of wasted opportunities.'

I can assure Mr. Sequeira that I am for the freedom of the Press. I am quoting the words from a very eminent member of the Press Council, Mr. Joshi. This is what he says:

> 'Whenever advertisements to newspapers were threatened, they were deeply affronted and equated this with attacks on the freedom of the Press. But when any issue of palpably unjustified victimisation of a working journalist under Government or other pressures came up, they did not react with the same vigour.'

And today, when the Press Council is being abolished, the professional mourners have started mourning for the Press Council. What I feel is, this action should have been taken long ago. That is why I say, I welcome this Bill. But, Sir, abolition of the Press Council should not result in advantage to some others.

Now, Sir, about the abolition of Press Council, I will again quote from *National Herald*:

> "The abolition of the Press Council has left the Government with an advantage. The failure of self-regulation, rather its utter absence, has enabled them to bring back Rajaji's Press Objectionable Matters Act in.

another form and with another name but in a more Draconian manner. While a minority of the Press Commission was totally opposed to Rajaji's act and urged its repeal, the majority recommended that it should be allowed to lapse since the principle of self-regulation was to be introduced and a machinery for it was to be set up."

Who were the Members who totally opposed and who were those Members of the Press Commission who said that it should be allowed to be lapsed. They were Jaipal Singh, Challapathi Rao and Mam. They said it should be allowed to lapse and it lapsed in 1951.

After the abolition of the Press Council another difficulty had arisen. I would like to get a clarification from the hon'ble Minister. I quote from *Economic and Political Weekly*:

"Also issued on December 8 was a third ordinance abolishing the Press Council. As a result, the Press Council will cease to exist on December 31. Interest here centres mainly on the so-called Verghese case before the Council. K. K. Birla, chairman of Hindustan Times is fighting a legal battle to prevent the Council from pronouncing its verdict in the case. Now, with the ordinance, he will have won the battle if he can hold out till the end of the year."

End of the year, viz., 31st December has gone. The new year has started. Mr. Birla will immediately say whatever the Press Council has said is finished. What is the protection by Government after the abolition of the Press Council to those journalists who do not agree with his views and politics? What will happen to them?

Further, Sir, another thing has happened. The hon. Minister has said about merging all the news agencies, that is, PTI, UNI, Samachar Bharati and Hindustan Samachar into one. This has been said exactly at a time when the two big capitalists are also uniting together, viz., Mr. R. N. Goenka and Mr. K. K. Birla. According to the new definition by some of the high-ups in the Government Mr. Birla is a socially-conscious businessman. That is a new term. I have nothing against him but this socially-conscious businessman has become the Chairman of the other group. This unification of the two groups has really created so many problems. What will happen to the news agencies and the small newspapers once the giant starts functioning. With Mr. K. K. Birla and Mr. Goenka coming together they may embrace Shri Shanti Prasad Jain very soon. I do not know. Sir, when the four agencies merge together into one —they are also trying to merge into one—I request the Minister to consider again whether time has not come when delinking and diffusion of press ownership Bill has to be brought.

13.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shrimati Nandini Satpathy, when she was the Minister here, assured us about the delinking and diffusion of press ownership. But she became the Chief Minister of Orissa State and we were left where we were. In this connection, the Working Journalists have constantly been asking the Government to bring about this legislation for their satisfaction.

Then Shri I. K. Gujral came. He had also assured us in this House, in the other House and in the Central Hall that he would bring forward a legislation for this purpose. But that also resulted in no action. Now, Sir, Shri V. C. Shukla, who has both courage and conviction, has become the Minister and I hope that he will bring a legislation either in this session or in the next session for delinking the press ownership. I hope he would

remain as Minister of this Ministry and he would not be shifted to some other Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But is that a part of the Bill, that is, delinking of the press ownership?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, this is one of the recommendations of the resolution. Therefore, I would request the Minister to go ahead in this matter and bring forward this Bill in this session itself. First of all I want that there should be some code of conduct established in consultation with the Working Journalists and their organisation, namely Indian Federation of Working Journalists. If there is another Press Council or any other of this kind is formed, at least Indian Journalists should be invited. They should be taken in the Council. Now, I would read out the resolution on the Press Council, passed by the 15th Session of the IFWJ at Gandhinagar in April, 1971.

> "If the Press Council cannot be mended, the Indian Federation of Working Journalists will not be unhappy if it is ended."

So, Sir, I would request you to take into confidence the Working Journalists in forming another Council, whatever the shape may be. It is very necessary to delink the press ownership from the proprietors and Government should take action on this immediately, especially at a time when Birlas and Goenkas are uniting. I am the President of the PTI employees' Unions and on behalf of my organisation, I have given him all support. We have supported Shri Shukla in his efforts to make one Corporation of PTI, UNI, Samachar Bharati and the Hindu Samachar. We shall also support his efforts to bring forward the legislation meant for delinking and diffusion of press ownership. With these words, I support the Bill and I hope the Minister will give an assurance to the House about the delinking of the press ownership.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must confess that I did not read the Press Council Act before coming to the Chair. But I have a great doubt whether delinking of the press ownership is one of the responsibilities with which the Press Council was charged. I have my doubts.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara): Mr. Deputy-Chairman, Sir...

AN HON. MEMBER: He is Deputy-Speaker.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: I apologise.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you call me Deputy-Chairman, I am promoted, because that is a higher House!

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this amending Bill is yet another instance of how a good institution is being made a victim of this power-crazy government. The Press Council was so indispensable and so vital to the growth of newspaper industry, both qualitatively and quantitatively, that in 1971 and in 1973, twice its term had been extended. There is something called double talk. We now find double thinking in this government. On 26th August, 1969, the predecessor of my hon. friend, Shri Shukla, Shri I. K. Gujral, in the course of his reply to the discussion on the Press Council (Amendment) Bill had said:

> "As a member of the Congress Party and of the Government, I can say, as I have said earlier, that for us freedom of the press is not a matter of policy, but it is a matter of commitment"

That was the *raison d'etre* for the Press Council. The annual report of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 1973-74, paying handsome encomiums to the Press Council, says in page 65:

> "It was with a view to preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers in this country that the Press Council of India was set up under the Press Council Act, 1965."

[Shri Surendra Mohanty]

This is the background of the Press Council and how it came into existence in pursuance of a recommendation of the Press Commission The minister could now have hanged it all right, but he should not have given it a bad name

He said that the Press Council did not formulate a code of conduct for the guidance of the newspapers in this country But the Press Commission had recommended the formulation of a code of ethics, the code of conduct did not occur there But when Parliament actually came to enact this legislation in 1965, it made a very vital departure from the recommendation and laid down that the Council should only build up a code of conduct for newspapers

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Code of conduct without standards?

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY That is in section 12 of the Press Council Act

> 'The object of the Press Council shall be—
>
> (d) to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards"

Sir you are a Professor of English Literature and you can very well distinguish between formulating a code of conduct and building up a code of conduct Rome was not built in a day Building up a code of conduct requires a long period of gestation Even though the Press Council has rubbed me on the wrong side as a working journalist many a time, I should say that through the large body of case laws which the Press Council had brought out, a code of conduct was in the process of being built up. In its last report for 1973, the Press Council itself has said

> "Thus the Council had taken the view that it was neither necessary nor feasible to draw up a comprehensive code, but to build up in course of time a body of case law gathered from the principles formulated in its adjudications in the several concrete cases '

In spite of this statement of the Press Council itself that it was not possible to formulate a code of conduct though it was possible to build up in course of time a body of case law, may I ask in all humility, from the hon Minister, why did the Government not wind it up and why did they extend its term?

Sir, again paying handsome tributes to the Press Council, Shri Gujral had stated 'Perhaps this would sumce to say that the Press Council has handled 82 complaints against newspapers and 7 cases of threat to the freedom of the Press upto June, 1969 This compares very favourably with the record of the British Press Council which dealt with less than 20 cases in a year during the first six years of its existence Now, my hon friend says that this is a superfluous and redundant body In 1973, the total number of cases which the Press Council had to handle was 114 The Press Council was attracting more confidence The profession was relying more and more on the Press Council for guidance when the Government had come with this Act During the year under review, the Council received 32 complaints against State Governments and others under Section 12 of the Act in respect of interference with the freedom of the press

I know that the abolition of the Press Council was the logical conclusion to the power hunger of the Government When it was going to do away with the freedom of the Press, the natural corollary was for the abolition of the Press Council which was entrusted with the task of preserving the freedom of the Press The hon Minister in course of his introductory speech has said that the Press Council

has never reprimanded journalists and newspapers whenever they attacked our democracy.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I never said that.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: Then, what did you say?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: You have heard what I said.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: When I interrupted the Minister, I asked him: "Did the Government bring it to the notice of the Press Council as provided for in this law." The hon. Minister said: "The Press Council should have taken notice *suo moto*". I would say that why did you not bring it to the notice of the Press Council? Why you remained silent? Why did you extend the term of the Press Council? It is only to give bad name to the Press Council to hang it. With these words, I oppose the Bill.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I oppose this Bill because the remedy, namely, the repeal of the Press Council Act, is not going to cure the disease. If the disease is the problem of yellow press, the problem of indecent writings in the newspapers, the problem of undesirable attacks on the individuals in public life, if these are the points of defects and disease, do you want the remedy of abolishing the Press Council? I am sure, we want all these undesirable things to go, because I feel that it is not freedom of the Press, but licence of the Press. But surely, if the Press Council is abolished, as the Minister is seeking to do by this bill, would it really cure the disease? Why point is that the problem and the disease will remain and will persist, because the abolition of the Press Council is no solution. The Minister, I must say—I heard him with great care and attention when he moved for the consideration of this Bill—has been too harsh on the working of the Press Council. Can we really be too sure on either side—either to condemn the Press Council's functioning or to praise it—because the life of the Press Council has hardly been one decade?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It was 11 years.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: It was established, according to your statement, on the 4th July, 1966. It is not for even 10 years that this Council has functioned; is it not too short a period to pronounce a judgement? I am not saying that it has done all good work and that there is nothing to criticize in its functioning; but let us not be too sure either in condemning or praising its functioning, because the time has been rather too short. That is why I said that the Minister has been rather unkind and rather harsh when he talked about its functioning. If you see the Minister's own statement, he says that it was set up in 1966. I quote from his statement; he says that the Press Council was set up:

> "mainly with the object of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies and to preserve the freedom of the Press. The functions to be performed by the Press Council under the Press Council Act, 1965 included, among other things, the building up of a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards, ensuring on the part of newspapers, etc., the maintenance of high standard of public taste, fostering a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and encouraging the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism..."

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

We all agree with these laudable objectives. I want to ask the Minister straightway whether he is honestly in a position to say that during the last 10 years or less of the Press Council's functioning, whether it has not done anything to promote the laudable objects of the Press Council s functioning—which he himself has detailed in his Statement of Objects and Reasons Now, Sir, see the interesting wording of the Minister s statement:

> "It was felt that the institution of the Press Council was not able to carry on its functions effectively to achieve the objects for which the Council was established..."

What exactly is the defect that he has in mind? "It was felt", he says, but by whom? Was it felt by the Government, by a section of the Press or by the public at large? Was there any expression of an opinion in this country through various agencies that the Press Council has not been functioning well at all?

As a matter of fact, twice earlier, in recent months and years, the Press Council Amending Bill was coming Because of the difficulty viz. that the Nominating Committee consisting of the Chief Justice, the Speaker of this House and the Vice-President together were not willing to act as the nominating committee, that bill was not passed when it was on the anvil; and nothing happend. But when that bill came more than once, the predecessor of my steemed friend—and I am sure the President Minister also—would not say that the Press Council's functioning was bad. Then, what happened suddenly between the discussions of this matter in the recent past and the discussions today, that compels the Minister to say everything unfavourable to the Press Council? That is my point. After all, there must be a reason. Is it because the Press Council did not toe the line of the Government since it declared the "Internal Emergency"? Is it because the Press Council did not want to go all the way with the Government and approve of what the Government has done with regard to the suppression of the freedom of the Press and restrictions on Press through censors and all kinds of other controls? Did the Minister want the Press Council to say that they were good? If not, he must explain in some more detain; that is my point. he must explain as to how he considers, the Government considers that the effectiveness of the Press Council's functioning was not there. Government cannot themselves be the sole judge or deciding authority in this matter.

We all agree that the press is not merely a commercial enterprise. The press in any country, and particularly in a democracy, is a kind of a public mission, a kind of a public welfare corporation, it is a calling The people who are running the newspapers are not merely running them for profit, they are running them for a profit in terms of encouraging the public to know the truth, encouraging the public to have decent tastes in understanding the truth If that is what the press is for and not merely a commercial enterprise, then surely the ethics of the press does matter So, I want to ask the hon Minister if he envisages any such agency outside and independent of the Government, preferably an agency composed of the pressmen themselves, to regulate, to chide, to warn and to encourage the press in its writings and doings.

There is, for instance, the All India Medical Council and there is what is called the ethics of the medical profession If any member of the medical profession does anything which goes contrary to the ethics laid down by the Medical Council, out goes an order and that particular erring man has to behave. Even in regard to advertisements in newspapers by

medical men there are certain restrictions, that it should not be in large letters etc. Surely we want ethics for the press, but who will provide it? Surely not the Government, surely not the free will of the individual pressmen themselves. There will have to be some kind of a press body composed of the press people themselves who will sit in judgement on their own brethren to find out whether they are acting in conformity with the ideas of the freedom of the press or not.

Therefore, the Press Council of India should not have been abolished. It should have been renovated, restructured, refurnished on such points which the hon. Minister and Government and even the press people themselves feel need reform, radical or peripheral.

The Press Council in the U. K. was taken as our model. I am prepared to agree that the Press Council in this country did not really act or function in the manner in which the Press Council in Britain has been functioning. But it does not follow from that that the institution of the Press Council itself is wrong. It only follows that taking the example of the British model, we have to see how it can be adapted to conform to our own conditions and requirements as also the temperament of the Indian people.

So, instead of summarily disbanding the Press Council, which the hon. Minister wants to do by this legislation, I would urge him, in the interests of a healthy, free, vigorous press, which is very essential for a democracy, which must expect high standards from its writers and from the citizens who read the newspapers, to come forward at an early opportunity with a Bill which will really make the people and the press function in a free and responsible way, with what has been termed recently as *atma anushasan* by the 'Acharyas' who met in Paunar Ashram, near Wardha. The initiative should come from the pressman themselves, not from the Government or any other outside agency. That is why I am unable to persuade myself to agree with the hon. Minister's reasoning and I, therefore, repeat my opposition to this Bill.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On a point of personal explanation. You said when I was speaking that it was not a recommendation of the Press Council. The object of the Press Council was also to consider the delinking of the press, and it is borne out by the fact that a Member of the Press Council, Mr. B. K. Joshi, said:

> "Two years ago there was a move from the Government about the delinking of the newspapers. The Council felt that it should also step in in the matter and give its views."

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate. The basic question that has been raised here is regarding the freedom of the press. As you well know, the freedom of the press is not a limited concept; it is a concept which is all-embracing. Therefore, I do not propose to deal with that concept, except in as much as it deals, or is connected with the Bill which is under consideration. After replying to the points that the hon. Members have raised, I will, with your permission, make certain general observations about this matter.

A point that has been raised by more than one member is regarding the proposed amalgamation, so-called amalgamation of the *Hindustan Times* and *Indian Express*. First of all, as far as our own information goes, this is not true. If any such amalgamation

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

has taken place, or is under contemplation, we do not know anything about it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. K. K. Birla has become the Chairman.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: When I heard about this matter, I tried to find out whether these two companies are amalgamating. I was told that there is no move to amalgamate these two companies. Therefore, this rumour must be set right once and for all. Even if there is any consultation between the two companies and if there is any inter-change of ideas or personnel between them, it must be of their own volition and the Government is not in any way connected with this.

Shri Saroj Mukherjee was speaking about the trends of authoritarianism. These trends are not visible to us now. They were visible to us before the imposition of emergency. Then we could very clearly see in the press of this country how democracy was systematically being scuttled, particularly by those big newspapers in the English language. The language newspapers also took their part in this. At that time, when there was danger to the freedom of the press, the Press Council did not do anything to safeguard the freedom of the press The Press Council has never said that inroads were made into the freedom of the press by the Government. But there were innumerable instances when newspapers were being controlled by the various business interests and industrial houses in an unhealthy manner Yet, the Press Council did not do anything worthwhile in that respect.

If Shri Saroj Mukherjee is a firm believer in the efficacy of the Press Council and its way of working, what prevented him at that time from taking these matters before the Press Council as a complainant and getting their verdict? But nobody took any such action. I do not blame Shri Saroj Mukherjee for not doing it because I know that, along with others, he felt that it was an ineffective and useless body and that at least in its functioning it was not producing any result. If Shri Saroj Mukherjee, who himself is an editor of a paper and who is deeply involved in journalism, if he believed in the utility of the Press Council, he owes an answer to this House why he did not take recourse to the Press Council when the freedom of the press was being threatened.

So far as de-linking is concerned, Sir, you have been pleased to observe that this Bill does not deal with that and, therefore, I will not say anything about that.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Poor Mr Banerjee!

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In this case I am a Robert Bruce

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The working journalists were the greatest complainants of the way of working of the Press Council. One would imagine that one of the main duties of the Press Council would be to safeguard the interests of the working journalists and to allow them to function in a free and desirable manner.

As Mr Banerjee himself has said unless the working of the Press Council can be drastically amended, it will not help, and we went into this question. We could amend even the present Act of the Press Council in such a way as to make it effective and give it a shape in which it would be able to function according to the aspirations of the working journalists and all those people who love freedom of the Press.

After reviewing the working of the Press Council for four months and consulting various people, we came to a conclusion, it was not a hasty conclusion, that this was not working in manner in which it was meant to Mr. Mavalankar might say, but I do not agree with him, that ten years is a short period to judge the efficacy or otherwise of the public body. If he says that we cannot judge it in one year or two years, it is all right. I was surprised to hear from my learned friend Mr. Mavalankar that he did not find it enough to make up his mind whether this was working in an effective manner or not. I am sorry to say that he is not right in this matter. A period of ten years is more than enough. Anybody could have judged that this body was not working in the manner in which it was meant to work

It is another matter that we did not lose hope; we kept on hoping When this amendment was brought, we thought that with the help of this amendment, its working will improve Even though we felt that this body was not functioning properly and it required much better functioning; we were perhaps hoping against hope that it would improve and deliver the goods. but it did not Therefore, we had to take this decision, which was inevitable, to abolish the Press Council, and think about some other thing, some other institution, method by which the laudable intention with which this Council was set up could be fulfilled, and that is what we are doing. In fact, in my opening remarks I had said that I would very carefully welcome the opinions of hon Members about this matter so that we could go into this question and really set up something which will ensure genuine freedom of the Press in the country. Shri Anantrao Patil has made good and constructive suggestions. We will certainly take them into account while we consider this matter of replacing the Press Council by some method by which the freedom of the Press can be genuine and real.

The other arguments were all repeated and there was a question of effectiveness or otherwise. I would only draw attention to the state of Indian Press for the last five years and how it was going on. We could easily see that there was no effective check on the malicious or wrong tendencies of Journalism. The real duty of the Press Council was to check the malicious or wrong or bad tendencies in Indian Journalism. All Members of this House would agree with me that all was not right with the Press. If it was not right, the Press Council should have taken action on its own and could have corrected it. If it found that it did not have the power to do so or if there was certain other action that Government had the power to take, it would have certainly recommended that and the Government would have taken into consideration that thing But nothing of the sort was done. Therefore, we find that a time has come when we have to abolish this and think about a new system under which we could do it.

I would also submit before the House that the Prevention of Publication of objectionable Matter Bill that I am going to move for consideration in the House and this particular Bill which is under discussion are both, more or less, inter-connected one arising out of the other. Here, as the hon. Members might remember, the Press Council recommendation was made in order that the earlier Press Objectionable Matter Act could be repealed and it was repealed after the recommendation regarding the Press Council was accepted

Now, the wheel has taken a full turn and we have come to the conclusion that the Press Council has not been able to effectively check the ten-

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

dencies for which this Parliament had earlier enacted a law and then it repealed that law in the hope that the Press Council would be able to check such tendencies. This has really justified the promulgation of these three ordinances.

These are the main reasons for that. I would assure the House that there is no *mala fide* and there is no intention to circumvent or limit the freedom of the press. This matter has been brought before the House only to ensure that we can find a better and more effective way to ensure the freedom of the press, to ensure the health of the Press and to ensure that the press can subserve the national interest and not destroy it as it was tending to do. With these words, I commend the Bill to the House for its acceptance.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the hon. Minister and my good friend, Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla, was kind enough to invite me to attend the meetings that he is presently holding with the newspaper men to evolve some kind of a code for the press. One of the things that he did say was that if we felt the Press Council should be revived, by all means, we could say so and the Government will consider it. This is what I understood. Sir, I ask you and you arbitrate....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will arbitrate in relation to rules.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Now the proceedings of the House do not reach the country. The only arbitrator we have is the Chair.

The question that I wanted to ask is: Who will believe that somebody begins by destroying what he is prepared to resurrect? I think, this is beyond the realms of any understanding.

The hon. Minister was putting forward as one of the reasons, as one of the justifications, for the Press Council being repealed, the fact that when the amending Bill came before the House, there was a tremendous criticism about the functioning of the Press Council. Nobody says that the Press Council was perfect. It is natural, whenever an amending Bill comes before the House, the functioning of a body for which an amendment is suggested, is put under a microscope. This has been always the custom of the House; this is the duty of the House. We come forward and criticise the Government here every morning. Does it mean that the Government has to be repealed? We only do that to try and improve the functioning of the Government. That is why we criticise. Now, of course, the term has ended. The question of improving the functioning of Government does not arise because on 18th March, they have lost their mandate and they must go to the people. If they do not go to the people, they are illigitimate....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your favourite theme.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: That is the only theme. What other theme is there?

I was somewhat fortified by the speech of my hon. friend, Shri S M. Banerjee, that he supports the freedom of the press. However, I am finding a little bit difficult to match this with everything he says.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Mr. Saroj Mukherjee?

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: I missed that speech.

Sir, the point that I was trying to make about Parliamentary privilege and conduct for the Press which the Hon. Minister either missed or chose to miss, was brought out so much

better by Mr. Mohanty. What I was saying when I spoke first was that we should not be surprised that the Press Council had failed to come up with a code because we ourselves find it difficult to make a code for our privileges. Mr. Mohanty brought this out so well when he quoted the Press Council and said that the Press Council itself had said in a word of one syllable that it was not possible to indicate a code and that it must be built up through case law. This is precisely what we have been saying with reference to Parliamentary privileges. The fact that a group of newspaper editors have sat down together and drafted something or the other does not mean that is the appropriate thing for the conduct of pressmen in their professional life. I would have thought that a much better solution would have been to send this paper or the suggestions made by the newspaper editors to the Press Council who will then have a chance of grappling with it and coming forward with something of some enduring value. Because, much as the Minister tries to assure us that he would like to see the freedom of the Press and he would like to stretch the freedom of the Press, what we find is that, since the alleged emergency, the freedom of the Press, the freedom to report the freedom to communicate, the freedom to dissent, is being contained from all seventeen corners—or whatever the geometrical pattern is. People talk of licence and permissiveness. We all agree that permissiveness and licence, in a democratic society, are harmful. But when freedom itself begins to be called licence, then, what is coming forward and is creeping into the Indian society today is an autocracy and everyone of the measures coming forward seems to be some measure within the overall plan to make everything in this country subject to the subjective satisfaction of the Executive. That is, I think, a classical definition of facism.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there was nothing to stop the Government from having allowed the Press Council to continue and from having complained to the Press Council every time when it found that the Press Council was not dealing with anything which struck at the roots of democracy. We are all agreed in this House that there was something which was striking the roots of democracy in these last few years; the only difference of opinion is that we feel that it is the Government which is trying to destroy democracy and they feel that it is we.

(*Interruptions*)

What I am saying is that, had the Government brought to the notice of the Press Council what they felt was wrong, I am sure they would have got some kind of a response from the Press Council. But what they are doing is to extinguish the Council without even a 'show-cause notice'. This, according to every law of the land, is against the norms of what is called natural justice—which itself has been removed from the law by a Bill passed by the House after the alleged emergency. Therefore, I say that if this Bill is passed—as I am sure it will be by a show of hands and at the fag end of the term of this House—it will be nothing more than one more blow to the democratic process.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

> "This House disapproves of the Press Council (Repeal) Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 26 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975".

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Press Council Act, 1965, and to provide for certain matters incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are no amendments to Clauses. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 5 and Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 5 and Clause 1 were added to the Bill.

ENACTING FORMULA

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "twenty-sixth"

Substitute "Twenty-seventh" (1) (*Shri Vidya Charan Shukla*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

MR. RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: You know the rules. Do not go into details.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Under the rules, has your formal permission been sought by the Minister for moving this Bill as amended for passage today?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is implied. If I have allowed him, that means I have permitted him.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: I believe, a formal request is required.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is allright. Mr. Ramavatar Shastri.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस उद्देश्य को लेकर इस प्रेस कौंसिल की स्थापना की गई थी उस की पूर्ति नहीं हो सकी जिस की वजह से आज सरकार को यह विधेयक सदन के सामने लाना पड़ा । बिधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूं गो कि मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उस का इस से संबंध नहीं है । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अखबारों की स्वतंत्रता जिसकी बात इस सदन के हर पक्ष के लोग करते है तब तक नहीं हो सकती जब तक आप अखबारों को बडे बडे इजारेदारों के पंजे से मुक्त नहीं करते और इस की चर्चा प्रैस कौंसिल के बिल में बराबर रही है कि बडे बड़े इजारेदारों के चगल से समाचार पत्रों को निकालना है । यह उद्देश्य उस में अंकित है । यह उद्देश्य अभी तक पूरा नहीं हुआ । प्रैस कौंसिल को आप समाप्त कर रहे है लेकिन जो एक बहुत बडा उद्देश्य उस के सामने था उस की पूर्ति की दिशा में आप ने अभी तक कोई कदम नहीं उठाया । क्यों नहीं उठाया? भले ही हम या आप प्रैस की स्वतंत्रता की बात कह ले लेकिन जब तक इजारेदारों की कमर नहीं तोडी जायगी हिन्दुस्तान में तब तक वाकई में जिनके लिए हम स्वतंत्रता चाहते हैं जिन की संख्या हिन्दुस्तान में ज्यादा से ज्यादा है, जो गरीब है, मजदूर है, मेहनत करने वाले हैं उन को सचमुच में क्या स्वतंत्रता है ? वह तो स्वतंत्रता आप से लड़ कर हासिल करते हैं । तो उन की स्वतंत्रता का क्या होगा ? प्रैस कौंसिल के इस उद्देश्य को मद्देनजर रखते हुए आप इजारेदारों के चंगुल से समाचार पत्रों और उन के कर्मचारियों को, जर्नलिस्ट को निकालने का प्रयास करें, इसके लिए कानून लाएं, तभी आप सही माने में प्रैस की स्वतंत्रता हासिल कर सकते है और समाचार पत्रों में काम करने

वाले अखबार—नवीसों, श्रमजीवी पत्रकरों और अन्य कर्मचारियों के हकों की हिफाजत कर सकते हैं ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is nothing to reply. Does the Minister want to say anything?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: You have said that there is nothing. I do not want to say anything.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You only note his suggestions.

The question is:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed?

The motion was adopted.

14.00 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION *RE.* DISAPPROVAL OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS (PROTECTION OF PUBLICATION) REPEAL ORDINANCE, 1975 AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS (PROTECTION OF PUBLICATION) REPEAL BILL.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We would take up the next item Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Ordinance 1975 by Shri Erasmo de Sequeira and the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Bill by Shri Vidya Charan Shukla.

Shri Sequeira.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: (Marmagoa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"This House disapproves of the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 25 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975".

Sir, it is a sad day for our interrupted parliamentary democracy when the Lok Sabha has to deal with a measure wherein the President in his wisdom has seen fit to remove from the Statute Book by ordinance a protection that this House had seen fit to give to the publication of its proceedings by law. I was surprised the other day to hear a very senior leader of the Congress Party mentioning in this House that we, in the opposition, were all very upset in the last session about the fact that what we were saying in the House was not being disseminated to the country and the question then asked was whether we speak here for the House or for the country. What is Parliament? It is some kind of a debating society in which each one of us speaks to bolster is own ego? Is it not a place where we come and express ourselves in a formal surrounding about what is going on in the country and participate in the process of making law with the opportunity and the right of being fully heard by the entire country so that it can judge us at our present actions with reference to the next general election? Is that not Parliament? If it is that we speak here for nobody to hear us, where is the connection between this House and the people? Why do we call this House as House of the People? Let us call it a House of the Carpets and Microphones and a House without loudspeakers. One of the reasons for bringing forward this Bill and coming forward earlier with this ordinance,—which to my mind is an ordinance that takes the cake,—I have not seen anything worse than that—was and I quote from the Statement of Objects and Reasons:

"Many newspapers reported with impunity, often on the front page and with banner headlines, such motivated and wrong charges, levelled in the Parliament against different persons, as would have invoked the laws of the land."

Yesterday, I had the privilege of hearing a brilliant speech by Profes-

[Shri Erasmo De Sequeira]

sor Morallow of Italy in the International Marketing Conference. He was speaking about management. He was saying that you must begin with an objective and you cannot have an objective until you know, what you need and before you know, what you want, you must start by looking at yourself by having some introspection. If it is true, and let us say that it is true to some extent, that charges were levelled in this House and then carried by the newspapers, where must the responsibility for that situation begin Must it not begin in the House? Must it not begin with the Government who failed to call that to the attention of the chair? If I may say so with the greatest respect to the Chair which you have been occupying at the moment, must it not also vest in the Chair for having failed in some measure to maintain some dignity in this House?

I want to take you back to the day when this original Bill which to-day is sought to be repealed was passed. It was a Bill which was moved by one of the greatest parliamentarians that this House has ever produced, Mr. Feroze Gandhi and on that Bill, Mr M. D. Joshi, my neighbour from Ratnagiri (South) had this to say:

> "At the most I would say that the liberty of the Press which will be additionally secured by the provisions of this Bill will cast a greater responsibility on Members of Parliament to be guarded in their utterances and a greater responsibility on the Chair also which is the guardian of the good character of Parliament."

It is not that what did happen in some cases was not foreseen at the time when this protection was sought to be extended for the publication of proceedings. If there has been a deterioration in the standards of this House, then the remedy must be looked for within the walls of this Chamber and not by infringing upon the freedom of the Press as this Bill seeks to do.

I will take you to the original Bill and I would like to quote Section 3:

> "Save as otherwise provided in sub-section 2, no person shall be liable to any proceedings, civil or criminal, in any court, in respect of the publication in a newspaper of a substantially true report of any proceedings of either House of Parliament....

And now mark what follows:

> ....unless the publication is proved to have been made with malice."

So, the protection that was granted to the publication was available only so long as the publication was a true reflection of the debate in the House. If anything was highlighted out of proportion, if any headlines were made on the front page out of proportion, then, whoever was affected, even under the old law, has the right to move a court for the protection and preservation of his good name.

What was the reason for coming forward and destroying of this extension of parliamentary privilege? Even to-day as you know, if anybody chooses to publish our own speeches.. .

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): You cannot do it.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: outside, we are subject to the laws of libel It is only the proceedings of the House where the totality of the points of view is put forward beore the people, which are privileged under the protection no publication law. To remove that privilege is to tell the members that 'You shall not publish a true proceeding of this House'

Now it is the duty of our Secretariat to prepare a verbatim report of our open debates and they become and should be in any democracy, public property. Now, where is the nexus,

where is the connection between on the one side saying that the full report shall be available and then on the other side saying that a true report of the entire proceedings, provided it is not malicious in any fashion, can be made? In this situation, is it not logical that we should suspect the motives that have led the government to come forward with such a Bill. I would think that if anybody is exceeding himself in this House and if by accident it slips past the government, it slips past the members, it slips past the chair,—we have the full faculty to interrupt—then, it would be in the interests of the country to know that a particular Member is exceeding himself. That is the only way he will be judged by the public because in a democracy, the ultimate judge must be the public opinion and not the government. Even the government must be judged by public opinion.

Therefore, I say that this Bill once passed will be nothing short of the interruption of communication between the House and the people. I object to this ordinance. I disapprove of it and I oppose it.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

> "This House disapproves of the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 25 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1956 be taken into consideration."

Here, there seems to be some misunderstanding in the minds of the honourable Members that this is casting any reflection either on the proceedings of the House or on the conduct of the Members or is restricting the freedom of the press. I may point out that there is nothing of this sort. If you see the Act that is sought to be repealed here, you will see that the Act that was on the statute book did not confer any additional right on the Members of Parliament. The only thing that it did was that the editors, Printers, and publishers of the newspapers were given some immunity that the hon. Members of Parliament enjoy only when they were speaking on the floor of the House. I may clarify that even after this Act is repealed, whatever Mr. Erasmo de Sequeira might say, there can be verbatim reporting. Everything that any hon. member of the House wants to say will find a place in the proceedings and that can be fully reported. There is no bar on any reporting. There is no bar on any member saying anything and there is no bar on anybody to publish or print or circulate whatever is said in this honourable House. The only thing that this Amending Bill seeks to achieve is that anybody who prints should be subject to the common law of the land to which all the citizens are subjected including the Members of Parliament when they are not speaking inside the House. This is the position which we seek to achieve.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Even now it is like that.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It is not like that.

Suppose a very scurrilous and *prima facie* wrong and absurd charge is made, for instance, against a particular Member of this House or a non-Member of this House. The whole thing appears completely ridiculous, wrong and absurd, but the whole thing can be splashed on the front page of the newspaper and printed. A non-Member of this House has no opportunity to vindicate and save his honour. Take an instance, your father is a

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

leading political figure in Goa. A Member of this House can stand up and say that he has taken Rs. 2 lakhs from a foreign Government to do a certain thing and this is printed in the newspaper of Goa. He will send a letter to the Editor and say that that was wrong. The Editor might choose to ignore that letter or ignore that contradiction and may not print it. What can your father, who is respected and venerated in Goa, do about that? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Sequeira, please wait and hear me. Just try to understand the situation. Do not get excited about it. I am giving an instance which will go home with you. Do not get so restive.

Please try to ponder over what I am saying. I am saying that today before you repeal this Act, the situation has been so helpless, the situation has been so bad, that in respect of any political figure who is in a vulnerable position—he does political work, he does social work and so he is in a vulnerable position—when people make absurd and completely baseless charges against him, and they are printed in the newspapers,—if he wants to vindicate his honour, can he go to a court of law? No, he cannot. He cannot do it today because of the protection given by this Act which we seek to repeal. Your respected father or anybody for that matter, any good citizen of the country cannot go to a court of law. If you see the present Act you will see this. Who is going to prove whether something was done with malice or without malice etc.? People who know law know how difficult it is to prove in a court of law whether there was intention to malign or there was no intention to malign. Anybody can say, I published it in public interest, I am publishing a newspaper in public interest and I did so in public interest and not with any malice. And the courts are likely to accept that point of view and they have accepted this point of view. And here in respect of any citizen of the country, his honour can be dragged into dirt, and he has no right at all to vindicate his honour. Now, by amending this Act, we are only providing for this situation. Still it is quite conceivable that some members, irresponsible members, may make irresponsible, completely baseless charges, *prima facie* absurd charges but when it goes to the newspaper office the editor will have to think several times before they print it and they put it in their pages because they know this. Even though it is said in the House and the member enjoys the immunity in the discharge of his duties, he may have said with malice or without malice, he may have said so in the discharge of his duty as Member of Parliament or otherwise, whatever it may be, it is for the House and for the Presiding Officer to deal with it. But when it goes to the editor who wants to print it, he will certainly take into account these points from his own commonsense, his own knowledge, his own aptitude and then decide about it. Even after repealing this Act he will have the full authority and full power to completely and accurately and faithfully report verbatim proceedings in this House and the repeal will not prevent that kind of thing. The only difference that would be made now after this Bill is made into an Act is this. If the citizen concerned feels that his honour has been violated, he can go to a court of law under Section 500 IPC and say such and such abuses have been hurled against me, this has appeared in such and such paper and therefore the paper must be proceeded against. So, this kind of thing puts additional responsibility on the editors, the reporters, the news agencies concerned. outside the House, not within the House, to be more careful and ascertain facts before publishing anything. This is the limited purpose and this is the limited effect of this repeal. If anything else is read into it, I would say that it is completely wrong and I may say that any apprehension that

hon. Members might feel would be unfounded, because, neither the proceedings of the House, nor the conduct of the Members within the House, nor any such publication is sought to be prevented by it.

Today, Sir, these printers, publishers and editors seem to enjoy more immunity than the Members of Parliament themselves. If Members make such charges outside the House they are subject to the common law, but if editors print and publish these things and circulate these charges, they are not subject to that law because of the provision of this Act.

Even a Member of Parliament enjoys this immunity when he speaks inside the House. I am labouring this point to bring to the attention of the hon. Members that no part of functioning of the hon. Members and no part of functioning of this House is sought to be circumvented by this repealing Bill and, therefore, whatever things Mr. Sequeira seems to have read into this Bill he is not only mistaken but he has completely and wholly misunderstood the intention behind the repealing Bill. Whatever you say here is certainly meant for the citizens at large. It should be read by citizens. Who prevents it? The newspaper can print it if he wants it but he cannot say I will print it and not subjected to the law. Let him print under the same provisions of the law. Why should the printer have a special immunity which is not available to other citizens of the country for whom these things are said in Parliament. I quote from the statement of objects and reasons:

> "Many newspapers reported with impunity, often on the front page and with banner headlines, such motivated and wrong charges, levelled in the Parliament against different persons, as would have invoked the laws of the land."

It is certainly so when Mr. Mody was called a CIA agent or supposing Mr. Sequeira is called a CIA agent and then it is printed all over....

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: It will not make any difference.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It will not make any difference to you but for others it will make a difference. Then what would you do? Even your personal explanation here will be recorded in the proceedings of the House but it may not be recorded in the newspapers who want to call you a CIA agent. If some hon. Members of the Opposition are called agents of other countries, what happens? It is printed by the private press who is out to malign that particular Member of Parliament and that particular Member of Parliament has no means of getting a contradiction published. He can get up in the House and make a personal explanation but that does not help him because the Press is controlled by those who want to malign democracy. Therefore, this Bill is meant to uphold the honour of this House and the honour of the Members of this House and also the honour of the citizens and remove unwarranted impunity and privilege given to editors, printers and publishers of newspapers to freely malign such people whom they want to malign in the manner they like. This is the limited purpose of this Bill and, therefore, I will strongly commend this Bill for the acceptance of this House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1956 be taken into consideration."

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: (Serampore): Sir, with rapt attention I heard the relpy given by the hon. Minister to the motion moved by Mr. Sequeira. I consider this repealing Bill just another nail in the coffin of

[Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya]

parliamentary democracy in India. Whatever privileges the Members of Parliament were enjoying in the country—though of a limited nature—are now being taken away step by step involving the entire procedure of parliamentary democracy. One feels that the institution as such is being allowed to die gradually as a slow poison process. The Bill is enacted with the sole purpose of giving proper ventilation to the grievances of the people whom we are representing and what we express on the floor of the House that is being denied to Members also

So, it is not only a question of snatching away the rights of the newspapers which they were enjoying all along, but also taking away the rights and privileges of the members and delinking the members from the people. That is the method you are adopting In spite of the pious wishes you are expressing, is it not a fact that only some days back in the parliamentary building—this was raised in a committee meeting also—a notice was put up saying that no reporter or other persons can take away anything containing the proceedings of the House without the permission of the censor? Mr Samar Mukherjee has already said about it There were seven pages of Mr. Samar Mukherjee's speech May I know how many lines were permitted by your censor to be published in the papers? We are not allowed to publish the speeches made by our leaders in our party journal even This is true not only of my party but of all opposition parties If Mr Hiren Mukherjee makes a speech, it will not be published automatically

SHRI S M BANERJEE: Kindly allow me to move my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot violate the rules. It is a question of order. If I also start violating the rules, nothing will be left. There is a certain stage at which you have to do it. If you don't do it, how can we go back? We have already started the discussion.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I left just for five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a victim of circumstances, but I cannot help it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will you do the same thing with the ministers also?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Of course. Take it from me that the same rule will apply to everybody.

SHRI S M BANERJEE: I will see that

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, you were saying something about the censor. I have allowed it but it is also correct that this has nothing to do with the Bill.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Why?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. I will explain why. This Bill says, anybody can publish what is said in the House The only difference is that when he publishes it, he makes himself liable to the law of the land. That is all.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: But is it a fact or not that a notice was put up saying that reporters and editors should not take anything from the proceedings of the House except through the censor?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It may be so, but it has nothing to do with this Bill

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Then what is this Bill meant for? When the Prime Minister or some other minister or some spokesmen of the government says something; it is published in the papers from A to Z. They speak nonsense but that has to be taken as sacrosanct.

This is the way democracy is functioning in our country. They are driving the last nail on the coffin of Parliamentary democracy that is being carried by Mr. Shukla. Don't try to hoodwink the people. This is nothing but another stunt that the right to publish it is still there. I can challenge anybody. No paper will publish my speech unless it is cleared by the censor. This is how double standard is being maintained ....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not by the Chair.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Not by the Chair but by the government and its representative, Mr. Shukla who is piloting this Bill. He will get all the publicity in all the papers and over All India Radio. But the speech of a poor opposition member like me will be blacked out completely. Under "Today in Parliament" you will have to listen for 15 minutes to what Mr. Shukla has spoken, but not a word of Mr. Sequeira's speech or my speech will be broadcast by all India Radio. Or perhaps there may be one line. That is all.

Therefore, I fully support the resolution moved by Mr. Sequeira and totally oppose the Bill from A to Z. My advice to Mr. Shukla is: You have been promoted a little now. But if you move in this way, don't think the people outside will forgive you. They will forgive neither you nor the government if you start gagging the voice of the people which is focussed in Parliament day in and day out. Ever since the declaration of the emergency, you are bringing repressive measures. What is the explanation? Even the speech of the Tamilnadu Chief Minister who is heading the government there was suppressed and he had to take the trouble of publishing his own speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That has nothing to do with this Bill.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: But the speeches of the opposition members there are flashed, including the speeches of any member who goes there on behalf of the ruling party and addresses a meeting. Hardly 25 people would have been present, but that will appear in banner headlines in the newspapers. The same is the situation in Gujarat. Please don't treat us like school boys and start giving sermons. Would you be kind enough to say whether the speeches made by the members in Parliament will be allowed to be published freely in our party journal? Let alone the Hindustan Times or the Express which have now been linked together.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Bill allows that.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Perhaps you do not have the patience to hear me. I have enough experience.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be relevant.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Can I publish that Mr. S. N. Mishra is in jail?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am appealing to you to be relevant. You say: "Can I publish my speech in my Party journal" and my reading is that you can. The only thing is that somebody can bring suit against you.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: You kindly judge our position. We cannot publish the news about those MPs who are detained.

May I request the Minister to go back with his Bill and accept the amendment put by Mr. Banerjee to send it to the Select Committee so that you can consider it patiently and come prepared to face the public.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Muvattupuzha): I rise to support the Motion moved by Mr. Shukla and oppose the Resolution moved by Mr. Sequeira.

[Shri C M Stephen]

I am just seeking to place before the House the limited question that is involved in this Bill As far as my understanding goes, none of the privileges of this House and the privileges of the Members of this House, are sought to be encroached upon by this Bill The privileges of this House and the previleges of the Members of this House are protected by article 105 of the Constitution Sub clause (1) of that article gives us 'that there shall be freedom of speech in Parliament' Sub-clause 2 has two aspects No member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in Parliament or any committee there of That part of it is not touched at all Anything can be spoken here even the libellous statements can be made provided the Rules of Procedure permit it The second part is No person shall be so liable in respect of the publication by or under the authority of either House of Parliament of any report paper votes or proceedings ' Therefore the publication of any speech, any proceedings or any vote made in this House if the publication is made under the authority of the House that also is completely protected No legislature and no ordinary law can take away that right The only thing is that it must be with the authority of the House Even libellous matters can be there and nobody can proceed against that In every respect the law of privileges that was in practice in the House of Commons would be applicable to this House and Members thereof

We are now considering as to what exactly is a privilege I honestly feel that there is a misconception about the scope of the privilege There was a time in the House of Commons when the publication of any speech of any part of any comment made in the House was treated as a breach of privilege That continues to be the position even to-day

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER They now have live broadcasts, live TV broadcasts.

SHRI C M STEPHEN I am coming to that

SHRI S M BANERJEE Your information is of the 18th century

SHRI C M STEPHEN To begin with the House of Commons took up a position that it was a deliberative body and whatever was said in the House was for the Members of the House It was not for publication and if publication was made the House passed a resolution prohibiting the publication thereof Subsequently, there was a very heated discussion as to whether publication should be permitted and the decision was that

> Though the House resolved on this occasion that the publication of its proceedings was a high indignit and a notorious breach of privilege the reporting continued in quarterly and monthly magazines, but under the cover of fictitious names for the House and its Members'

Subsequently this was relaxed in practice because publication started to take place and continued to take place

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER We know all this

SHRI C M STEPHEN To day the position is that suppose a statement or a speech made is misreported and a garbled version is given no motion for privilege will lie against the Member on the ground of garbled version, but a motion will have to be given on the ground that the publication was made and that the fact that it was garbled was an aggravation of the breach of privilege The point I am emphasizing is that in theory the House of Commons continues to hold that position even to-day viz that the publication is a breach of privilege (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They took it into account when the last bill was made into a law. The bill that we seek to repeal now took all that into account.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The question is: "let there be no notion that there is anything fundamental in the right to get publication." After all, this House is a deliberative body. What is spoken here, is in an effort, as far as my understanding goes, to convert one another and to bring about a consensus or to accept a particular motion or something like that. Now it has gone ahead. Now the attention is more to the Press, more to the larger public, so much so that the deliberative character of the discussions of this House has become diluted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He did not say 'proselytization'. He said, 'conversion'.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Now, taking protection under sub-clause (2) of Article 105, publication started in India also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are taking a long time in giving all this history. We have only 2 hours for this bill.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: There were two criminal cases. In those cases, criminal proceedings were initiated. (*Interruptions*). My friend, without being here even for moving an amendment, is just (*Interruptions*)....Am I in possession of the House, or is he in possession of the House?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are in possession. But I am in possession of the time of the House.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: If the time is up, you can ring the bell; I will resume my seat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have rung it once. Try to conclude.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Can I get two minutes?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Two minutes I will give you.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN. That is right. When the two criminal cases came up before the Calcutta High Court, the court ruled that the protection was only to a Member. Protection is not for the publication. If the publication of a libellous matter comes up, then the publisher is liable for criminal action. Two rulings were given, one in 1951 and another in 1956. It was following that that this particular Act was passed by Parliament which said that save as otherwise provided in sub-section (2), no person shall be liable to any prosecution, civil or criminal, in any court in respect of any publication in a newspaper of a substantially correct report of any proceeding in the two Houses of Parliament. Therefore, what I am submitting is, what the law in this country was before the passing of this Act, that law is now sought to be restored by the passing of this Act. That is all what is taking place. None of the privileges of the Members of this House, or of the House, is sought to be infringed by that. The privileges will be retained completely, but the privileges which were enjoyed by the outside agencies is now sought to be removed. They will have to expose themselves to the ordinary criminal proceedings, as any other citizen is exposed to.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—ta—North-East) Mr. Deputy Speaker, instead of going at a tangent, it is important that we concentrate on the basic priciple involved in the proposed legislation. I have heard the Minister twice, or may be thrice, on these issues because I opposed the introduction yesterday morning, and I have not found in what he said anything more than signs, either of naivete or a complete simplicity and ignorance of the position constitutionally, or a deep-seated desire not to expound the position correctly to the House.

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

The basic thing which we all have to bear in mind is that Parliament, freely functioning, enjoying popular support and responsive to it, critical wherever necessary, is the last insurance against subversion, if subversion happens to be of the undesirable sort. And this legislation has the very specific purpose of repealing a law, which was adopted by this House in 1956, on account of the Press Commission as well as the entire corps of journalists in this country asking for protection in regard to their freedom of publishing what goes on in Parliament.

It so happens, and I said it yesterday, that the Bill was sponsored by the late Shri Feroze Gandhi, with whom some of us had very close association, and I can recall very easily what happened in those days.

Now this Bill was brought forward because it was important that what was being done in Parliament was made known to the country immediately, and that could be done only by the press, or over the radio and other electronic devices that you have got today. And this fact is of the most tremendous importance for whoever cares in regard to parliamentary democracy. Now, we are not votaries of parliamentary democracy for ever and ever in every context; but, as long as we function as a parliamentary democracy, it has to function in an effective manner, and the experience of Britain is of great help. As I said, even though there was a great deal of basic hypocrisy in Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence and constitutional practice, at the same time, there are some really inspiring evolutions of things, the emergence of functions and practices, and that is why there are such leading cases as *Stockdale* Vs. *Hansard* early in the 19th century or Warson Vs. Waller in 1866 or where it was laid down that the freedom of the press to report faithfully what happens in Parliament is to be guaranteed.

My friend, Shri Stephen, was referring to the British freedom. He can go to the Parliament Library and look up the latest edition of the *London Times*, where full reporting of Parliamentary proceeding is made, in pursuance of the law of that country. Mention of the *London Times* remined me that while my friend, Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya, was speaking we were all unhappy that the speech of our own friend and comrade, Shri Samar Mukherjee, was not reported in the press yesterday, but I learn that it was reported in *London Times* and possibly the Government's desire to get on the right side of our friends abroad is not sustained by this kind of thing happening—it will happen and it will continue to happen—because the press people, who represent the press in other countries, are enterprising enough to get hold of this material and publish that to the detriment of the image of India. They are now putting on the statute book a legislation repudiating Feroze Gandhi's Act and asking the press and everybody else not to report what is happening in Parliament.

Feroze Gandhi, on that occasion, had pointed out specifically, and I am trying to recall those days, that people have a right to know what happens in Parliament, which is a universally accepted principle, that the libel law is a sort of Damocle's sword hanging on the press people and others, that M. Ps. have absolute privilege, we can say whatever we like,—Mr. Bhattacharyya a little while ago said whatever he liked, even though you rightly stopped him, but he has that right—that judicial proceedings can be reported faithfully and correctly—but Parliamentary proceedings cannot under the law that we are going to put on the statute book be reported faithfully—and that, therefore, it was important and the entire journalistic corps, apart from enlightened opinion, wanted that freedom of parliamentary reporting should be guaranteed.

He had quoted on that occasion the observations of one of the most important authorities on libel and slander called Blake Auger, and I am quoting these words, "The public conduct of every public man is a matter of public concern." The public should know. They have sent us to this House, they should know what we are doing, so that they would be able to determine what should be their duty in regard to ourselves.

In Feroze Gandhi's time as well as later on it was pointed out more than once, any number of times, that after all what happens in Parliament is regulated by certain procedures. There are our rules of procedure, and then there is the Chair always to regulate the conduct. But the Minister comes forward and says, "The press in India has failed to exercise full self discipline and restraint and the privilege of Members of Parliament has assumed extraordinary proportions in the last three years. "Is it the contention that the press is congenitally impossible of self-discipline? On the other hand, we have a patriotic and very efficient press.

Of course, the press is largely controlled by big money interests who want to operate to the detriment of our nationally accepted objectives. So, I can understand it if Government do come forward in order to check the press barons who have done damage during the last decade or so, but far from trying to discipline the press barons who have been behind every damage done to our aspirations even, — they are coming to terms with them, people like K. K. Birla who is coming back to control not only their own papers but the Indian Express group also, they are treated as socially conscious capitalists with whom they are beginning to join hands—they are punishing decent, honest, independent reporting by putting up here a censorship apparatus which is utterly ridiculous.

On the floor of the other House the Chairman was requested to see to it that the censorship is not operating in the fashion that it does today. In this House also we have repeatedly pointed out how censorship is operating, but nothing would happen because Government insists on the censor doing his duty in his kind of way, which is an utterly wooden, bureaucratic sort of way, and the freedom of everybody concerned is being decimated This sort of thing just cannot pass muster.

When Ferzoe Gandhi had brought this Bill, it was not out of a sudden impulse, it was not because of a desire to be sentimentally helpful towards the press; it was because many significant events had happened. For example, it was officially stated in Parliament that some coal wagons bound for the Government ordnance factory at Muradnagar were diverted to Modinagar and were taken delivery by the local industries There was a serious coal shortage and this was a very revealing situation The name of the industry was not allowed to be published by the legal advisers of the Press Trust of India, this was before 1956, on the ground that if Modinagar Industries filed a case for defamation, the PTI by itself had no proof excepting the statement of the Railway Minister in Parliament at that time, which was not acceptable to the courts as a matter which was proved.

We find, again, in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister Nehru made a a reference to the late Mr. Savarkar in his speech on the assessination of Mahatma Gandhi. Mr Savarkar gave a legal notice to the PTI which was waived only on an undertaking given to the court by the PTI that it would release Mr. Savarkar's statement also.

Then, again, in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Feroze Gandhi himself brought up the famous Bharat Insurance case which, ultimately, ended in the nationalisation of life insurance companies and which also landed Mr Ram Krishna Dalmia in jail but none of the serious charges against Dalmia levelled by

[Shri H N Mukerjee]

Mr Feroze Gandhi in Parliament and accepted by the then Finance Minister. Mr C D Deshmukh, could be published in the papers Neither the name of Dalmia nor his companies could be mentioned in the reports I remember Mr Feroze Gandhi from there got up to say I find the things said in Parliament which were very important to national welfare are not reported in the press only because the freedom which MPs have is not shared even to a small extent by the press of our country

It is after these experiences that the Indian Federation of Working Journalists went on carrying a propaganda in favour of the new freedom and the American, French and other European countries' practices were referred to The whole position was placarded before the whole country and Mr Feroze Gandhi introduced his well-known Bill The result of this was that it became possible for Parliament and the press acting together in cooperation to focus the attention of malpractices in big industrial houses and elsewhere

Many Reports of the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee got published and action was taken against the guilty for example against Mr Aminchand Pyarelal Possibly Sir you had come to Parliament at that time and you will remember that case and many other cases were referred to The nationalisation of banks the nationalisation of coal mines and the nationalisation of general insurance and similar measures could be attributed to some extent to the fact that there was press publicity in regard to the misdeeds of people who were brought to focus in Parliament Therefore it was found important that these things should be allowed to be published The Minister says that they can even now publish it But don't leave it to them, they have to go to the court and defend themselves

Then the Government says that in the last three or four years the powers were misused I am very sorry to get a feeling that there is, by implication, a reflection on the Chair About the last three or four years, you say that it was a bad period, a black period, whose memory the Government wishes to erase by mere force, not by creative measures fulfilling the wishes of the people but by putting something on the statute book and getting the miserable censorship to work That is not the way in which you can erase the memory of the recent past

What happened in those days? I remember very distinctly how the Chair —the former distinguished occupant of the Chair is sitting here before me— has functioned and we have found to our consternation that the Chair could not be assisted by the leaders of the ruling party whenever such, situations arose I have heard, in this House the Speaker Mr Hukam Singh did something wrong because he had sent out a few people for deviating the rules and the conventions of the House I have heard the praise of Mr Sanjeeva Reddy for a not having ever used this disciplinary jurisdiction I have heard the praise also of Dr Dhillon that he kept his temper cool in the most exacting situations and never took a drastic step Why was it that the Chair was disabled from taking steps which day in and day out proclaimed from the house tops were the remedies of parliamentary discipline?

15 00 hrs

That was because they had a guilty feeling themselves They could not take that stand on principle They could not assist the Chair in the manner in which the Leader of the House and other leading members of the Government Party are expected in any Parliamentary apparatus to help the conduct of the Parliamentary proceedings I have the mortification, I belong to the Opposition It is not for the Opposition to help the Government by way of rescuing them in distress But I have found it repeatedly, I have found the Members of the Govern

ment leaving one of their number, a Cabinet colleague, late Shri L. N Mishra for example, in the lurch, never defending him properly, never saying anything, never putting up a challenge, never saying a counter-challenge to a challenge If they had the guts and the moral authority to do so, they could give an answer, but they did not choose to give the answer They had to be goaded and goaded in order to come forward before the House Why? Because, the Chair, after all has to observe certain proprieties The Chair cannot just lay down the law and push it through The Chair has to be assisted from both sides of the House But Government never assisted the Chair, they had clay feet, they did not have the moral guts to stand up on themselves and when on occasions they tried to defend for example a Minister like late Shri L N Mishra, they put up a very much better case than when they had kept mum, completely silent, about it and merely said that, because of the uproar, they could not answer They never played their role properly If they had the moral guts and the capability in Parliamentary terms they could have assisted the Chair but they did not do so What I say is that the assistance from the House would be forthcoming on a matter of principle where the honour of the country is involved and the security of our nation and the prospects of its development are involved When the fight against neo-fascists is taking on such an urgent character, this Government can certainly enlist the support of all people of goodwill But they have not got the courage, they have got their own clay feet they have got their own guilty conscience somewhere which is why they do not get up and assert their own right That is why I say that it is entirely dishonest on the part of the Government to put the blame on whoever was responsible for the conduct of Parliamentary proceedings in the last five years it is entirely dishonest to put the blame on the press for having reported things badly. A section of the press, the big money press, has always behaved shabbily in regard to the national aspirations of India, but Government has never had the guts to manacle that section of the big money press, but Government have the guts to put down the working journalists but not the big money press—that is what they do not propose to do Now they bring forward this legislation

I do not wish to end on a sentimental note, because there is no question of sentiment about it Feroze Gandhi had brought forward this Bill, not because the Parliamentary practice in Britain had to be followed here—that is the least part of the story for our own reasons, we want this Bill—but for certain reasons I cannot, for the life of me, as I said yesterday, understand why an one line Act would be put on the Statute Book—The Feroze Gandhi Act is repealed For what purpose?

I have heard some words, whispering here and there that, perhaps, Government are having a second thought in regard to this matter I wish to Heavens that Government does take a second thought, that the Minister goes back Mr Shukla please do not make naive speeches in Parliament, which is not worthy of you, because you are more intelligent than that Either you are too clever by half or you are presenting a case which you do not know anything about Please go back to your leader, the Prime Minister and find out if you are really and truly going to have this very unsavoury legislation, this one line Act repealing the Feroze Gandhi Act That had a history behind it which I have tried to detail before you You are trying to ring the bell I am perhaps trying to take advantage of my seniority in this House But that is not the point I wish him to go back to his Prime Minister to find out whether they are or they are not going to reconsider this matter. I wish to Heavens that

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

he withdraws this legislation. Let the Feroze Gandhi Act remain on the Statute Book. The Heavens will not fall. Why should the Heavens fall? If the dogs bark in Parliament, why are you afraid? If the dogs do not bark here, they would bite you elsewhere. Parliament is an insurance against revolution. Try to have a revolution by means that woud be acceptable to our people and which would produce results. Do not play with the idea of revolution. Revolution is the most authoritarian thing in the world. I would accept authoritarianism provided I know that a real revolution is taking place. But, in the name of a fake revolution, do not impose authoritarianism of the sort that is implied in this kind of legislation.

I oppose this Bill, I support necessarily the resolution of my friend, Mr. Sequeira and I wish the government would have the good sense to withdraw this Bill and put an end to this.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): I shall deal a bit later with the basic principles and the cardinal postulates of the Bill to which Shri Mukherjee made a reference.

But I must start my speach straightaway by refuting completely the allegations made by Shri Hiren Mukherjee and it is a very extra-ordinary manner of making an allegation against the Congress Party where you find fault with us for the misbehaviour of the Opposition Party. The Opposition Party misbehaved in this House and made the working of the Chair very difficult. I was one of those who made and endeavoured their best to repel every indecent remark and every wild allegation made in an extremely irresponsible and heinous manner by the Opposition Members to run down the late Shri L. N. Mishra. It was our leader who prevailed upon us to ensure that we did not follow in the Chamber tactics of the opposition.

Now, for this restrained behaviour shown by us in the midst of provocation Mr. Hiren Mukherjee blames us, that we were developing clay feet and that we have a guilty conscience. To say the last, this is exceedingly unfair. I wish he had got up at that time when the opposition members were misbehaving and trying to *gherao* the Chair. He should have got up and abused those people as he is trying to abuse us now. If he had done the right thing at that time, possibly this Bill would never have seen the light of the day. Having failed to do his duty at that time, now to pass on the blame to us does not befit a parliamentarian of the seniority and esteem of Shri Hiren Mukerjee.

I am one who is connected with newspapers. Therefore, this Bill is of quite some importance to me. But, if one were to see, what is the principle and the postulates behind this Bill, with objectivity he can see the rationale, I have heard Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya come out with an extremely high sounding and erudite speech. However, it appeared that he seems to have studied everything on the earth excepting the provisions of the Bill. There is no provision in the Bill by which any newspaper is stopped from printing anything which it wants to print, including the proceedings in the Parliament. The only provision that is sought to be made is that the protection which is given in Section 105(2) to a Member of Parliament is not super-imposed and made applicable to the Press, Now, to say therefore, that this measure is going to adversely affect and impede the efficient functioning of the Parliament or the efficacy of the Parliament may be true, but, it is partially true only. It is not fully true. One has to understand that the publicity of everything that happens in this House has its own merits. The country must know what goes on in Parliament. And for the efficient functioning of the Parliament in a democracy, it is necessary that

newspapers should give publicity to the proceedings in this House. But as one who is watching the proceedings for last nine years in this House, I am ashamed of several things happening in this House and published outside. I ardently hopped that those things had never happened, and at last if they were not publicised the image and the respect of this Parliament would have risen much higher in the esteem of the people, and parliamentary democracy would have been far more stronger than what it has been. Let us make an honest evaluation of the entire situation and see whether or not the members and press had abused the immunity which has been granted to the Press under the law which is now being sought to be repealed. Did not the Members look forward to making wild and reckless allegations, scurrilous and offensive speeches, particularly by the Opposition members times without number and despite the Chair's protest? On the second day itself when I came to Parliament, two full days were taken for discussing Svetlana, a lady who came here and stayed for a few days and went away. The matter was publicised as though that was the greatest event of the country. Then came the mink coat. Then came one scandal after another. Satisfactory replies were given about that but the replies found a place in the newspapers in only two or three lines. What the Opposition leaders said including of most wreckless and irresponsible allegations made by them came out in banner headlines. I speak with great respect to the press. I am not trying to denigrate them. But the Parliament news has invariably been published as though this is the biggest market or fish place and the people come here to make out all sort of wild allegations, irresponsible comments, character assassination and that is all what the Parliament is meant for? Such was the image that was sought to be created by the press in an extremely irresponsible manner. As to whether or not this is true, let us search our hearts. We ourselves want a very efficacious and efficient functioning of the Parliament. I have conceded that the publication of proceedings is important. But Parliamentary democracy's cause would have been served better if many things that have happened here and many comments which were made were kept confined to the House. Therefore, I do not feel any difficulty in accepting this repealing legislation, as a measure, which is very wholesome, very necessary and very pragmatic.

15.09 hrs.

[SHRI C. M. STEPHEN *in the Chair.*]

I wish to refer to one more aspect of the matter here. Shri H N. Mukherjee has gone away: Has it not been the case that the members, despite protests and warnings from the Chair, despite repeated reprimand from the Chair, insisted on saying things which they should never have done.

I have myself been a victim of the slanderous remarks in this House. A young member of the Socialist Party, when I was absent, just got up and started shouting that certain Drug firms in Indore got import licences and in these import licences, crores of rupees were made. In those crores of rupees which had been made, according to that young Member of the Socialist Party, the Health Minister of Madhya Pradesh was involved and a colleague of mine in Parliament and I was involved. This was said despite repeated warnings by the Chair, to stop talking nonsense entirely against the rules I was absent from the House. The Chair was unable to give me the protection against the member who flouted the Chair and Rules of Procedure. It was magnanimous of the Speaker who allowed me

[Shri N K P Salve]

to make a statement that day and I categorically denied and said, that far from doing anything in the matter of drug imports I have never been to Indore, I have never known about any drug licence being given and if the member can prove that I have ever known anything, far from taking money, about the whole matter I shall resign from this House the very moment The next day Mrs Salve rings me from Nagpur and tells me that she read in banner headlines 'Mr Salve involved in receiving crores of rupees' She rings me from Nagpur to find out where is the money and why I was not sharing that with her This is a reality There is considerable irony in many things which are happening in this House Are we coming to this House to barter away our self-respect and honour simply because the press must be allowed to publish wrong things said and done in this House? Could not the press keep this news away? Against the ruling of the Speaker one Member got up and shouted what was uncontaminated nonsense and falsehood and he got banner headlines is this sort of publication not a gross abuse? Shri H N Mukerjee still feels that efficient functioning of the Parliament will be adversely affected, if press publications are subjected to law of the land

Time has come when our notions about the freedom of press and various other freedoms require proper reconsideration Whether emergency has proved anything else or not, whatever else it may have proved or disproved, it has proved one thing clearly and that is that this country is not meant for soft and permissive democracy We need a democracy in which we need to take a very realistic view of the matter and we need to rule to some extent with 'danda' itself I congratulate the Minister for bringing this legislative measure, as a result of which, press will have to be responsible on their own under the law of the land and press can publish whatever they like but they will be liable, they will be responsible

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram) One day that Danda will fall on your head

SHRI N K P SALVE I shall be too willing to take a danda if it is for a cause and not as vengeance of the Opposition party I do not mind it But let me assure, Mr Halder one thing, if it ever comes to a rule of *danda*, he and his party members are the one who will be hung by the closest lamp-post by the shortest rope and would be sent to heavens People will never give us *danda* You protect your skin and head if you have one

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER I do not want protection from you Mr Salve, Sir

SHRI N K P SALVE Thus as a result of this legislative measure, the press has lost the immunity from legal action under law of the land which they were enjoying As a result of the immunity the demanour of the press and the Parliament coming to a level which did not in any manner raise the level of the Parliament or the Press as such Therefore, once again I congratulate the Minister for bringing this legislation There is a great deal of pragmatism in this legislation

SHRI VIRENDRA AGARWAL (Moradabad) The political situation in the country today is charged with tension and confrontation The Government of the day has failed to make an objective assessment of the situation prevailing in the country I do not believe that a person of my temparament can either make a worthwhile contribution to make the debate really meaningful The newspapers of the day are abusing and maligning the opposition and describing the opposition as traitors, reactionaries,

criminals, fascists and CIA agents. But the Government leaders are being described as champions of freedom and downtrodden and what not. But the fact remains that the major casualty of the emergency in the country is either freedom or the poor.

Sir, who does not know that the supremacy of Parliament, independence of judiciary and freedom of press have been greatly undermined and that is why one who has a little intelligence to understand the fundamental things of this country believes that there is no democracy in the country. It is the opposition which always sets the pace in any democratic country of the world. You should better learn what the British Prime Minister recently told the Soviet Government about the speeches made by conservative leader Mrs. Thacher in UK. Whenever the opposition is gagged with an object to liquidate it, it implies that the country is moving towards one party rule and that means dictatorship.

It is always the despotic ruler who has been afraid of public opinion. If you do not allow free press it implies that you are determined to throttle public opinion. Public opinion is the essence of democratic functioning Press is the essential vehicle to build public opinion in any country. Opposition and the Press are the essential virtues of a democracy.

We have now reached the crossroads when we have to decide whether we want to have one party rule or whether we want dictatorship to prevail in this country. We as a nation are known to be peace loving and the people of India relish certain basic freedoms as guaranteed in the Constitution. India has remained under foreign domination for more than 1000 years but these freedoms have never been curtailed. Foreigners could succeed because they were able to read Indian mind correctly. We talk so much of discipline and progress today but I can assure you that a slave mentality can never allow the nation to grow. What we need today is freedom plus discipline and not discipline minus freedom which leads to slavery. This is a very sad situation, for healthy growth of this country. I will just quote what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said on these national issues as far back as in April 1936. He said this while addressing the Lucknow Congress. I quote:

"Comrades, being interested in psychology, I have watched the process of moral and intellectual decay and realised, even more than I did previously, how autocratic power corrupts and degrades and vulgarises.

Of one thing I must say a few words, for, to me it is one of the most vital things that I value. This is the deprivation of civil liberties in India.

"A government that has to rely on the Criminal Law Amendment Act and similar laws, that suppresses the press and literature, that bans hundreds of organisations, that keeps people in prison without trial and that does so many things that are happening in India today, is a government that has ceased to have even a shadow of a justification for its existence.

"I can never adjust myself to these conditions; I find them intolerable. And yet I find many of my countrymen complacent about them, some even supporting them, some who have made a practice of sitting on the fence into a fine art, being neutral when such questions are discussed."

This is what Jawahar Lal said in 1936 while addressing the Lucknow Congress session. I have heard the hon. Minister and he has made the whole preposition very simple as if nothing is happening to the country.

[Shri Virendra Agarwal]

Sir, I have seen one notification issued by the Chief Censor on 4th January, 1976 about the proceedings of the House. I would like to read this notification which will show to what extent Mr. Shukla is correct in explaining the Bill in this House. This notification says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in letter No. 1/3/75/CC dated August 19, 1975, addressed to all accredited Correspondents representing Indian news organisations and letter No. 2/4(iii)/75-CC dated August 5, 1975, addressed to all Editors in Delhi and other parts of India, and any undertaking by foreign correspondents to observe the guidelines in return for exemption of pre-censorship, the attention of accredited correspondences (including the foreign) and editor is drawn to Statutory Order 275(E) dated 26th June, 1975 and as amended on 12th August, 1975 made under Rule 48(1) of the Defence and Internal Security of India Rules and to state that all news, comments (including editorial comments), rumour or other reports relating to the proceedings of the 15th Session of Fifth Lok Sabha, 1976, and 94th Session of the Rajya Sabha falling within the provisions of the said Statutory Order 175(E) shall be submitted for scrutiny and shall not be published without permission in writing."

This is what the Chief Censor has notified to the papers in Delhi. This particular censor order clearly explains to what extent the Minister is right while explaining the objectives of the Bill.

So many things have been said about the correctness of the Bill. One can very well appreciate and at least I do that character assassination or defamatory language must be stopped but it does not imply that the corrupt Minister should not be exposed. At times it is taken for granted that if a corrupt Minister in the House is exposed that means you are trying to defame the Minister. It is the responsibility of the Prime Minister to see that those who are inducted in the Government are really above board. If they are not then this Parliament has the right to attack and expose and let the whole country know that they are really corrupt. I do not see the reason why the corrupt Ministers in this House should not be exposed and the country be not told that these people are corrupt.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: You are speaking irrelevant things which have nothing to do with the Bill. You do not understand it.

SHRI VIRENDRA AGARWAL: The question is, are the ministers more capable of making responsible statements as against the average, member of this House?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Who is that average member?

SHRI VIRENDRA AGARWAL: Any member like you or me. You see any publicity material. Only the Ministers' speeches are carried, while the speeches of other members irrespective of party affiliation, including even the senior-most Congress leaders of this House are blacked out. I can give you the names. At least four senior Congress members of this House have told me that whenever they speak, their speeches are not allowed to be published. Therefore, in the garb of this Bill, you are trying to blacklist every member of this House, irrespective of party affiliation. It is not a question of opposition or Congress members. Is freedom of speech meant only for ministers or is it for everyone? I think we, the members of this supreme sovereign body, are equally responsible and we do have as much representative character as anybody else sitting on the treasury benches. This discrimi-

nation between ministers and non-ministers is repugnant to the human mind and hits hard at the foundation of democratic functioning. Either give equal treatment to all members of the House so far as parliamentary proceedings are concerned or let there be secret sessions. I represent a constituency and I have got a responsibility to see that the people of my constituency know what I have spoken in this House. If I want my speech to be published for circulation in my constituency is it allowed or not? These are the questions which are agitating our mind. I think it is the responsibility of the Hon'ble Speaker to uphold the supremacy of the Parliament and to grant equal treatment to all members of this House.

With these words I oppose the Bill.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich): Sir, Shri Virendra Agarwal and Shri Hiren Mukerjee have made brilliant speeches but they have only misdirected themselves to issues that are not at all germane or relevant to the topic under discussion. Either they have not read the bill or if they have, they have not understood its implications. I entirely agree with the reasoning and brilliant exposition of Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla. The point is very simple. The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of publication) Act has created an anomalous situation. If an hon. member, in spite of the vigilance exercised by the Chair, has wholly misdirected himself and made wild and baseless accusations on the floor of the House, article 105 gives him ample immunity from being prosecuted in a court of law or being sued for damages for tort in civil courts. He may not have the courage to repeat the same accusations outside the Parliament. But if he makes such a speech in Parliament and if it is published in the newspapers and read by millions of people, the editor, printer and publisher enjoy immunity under the Act which is sought to be repealed. Therefore, the newspapers should not enjoy the immunity larger than the ordinary citizen of this country. That is why I say that this Bill was long overdue to repeal that Act.

Now, many sentimental references have been made to late Feroz Gandhi. While discussing the Bill we should confine ourselves to the merits of the Bill and we should not be influenced by the personality of the author of a particular Bill. We have challenged the philosophy, we have challenged the Vedas, we have challenged the Shastras but here are persons who are attacking the Bill not on merit but they are resorting to personality cult. That is a wrong approach. My submission is that the Bill has a limited purpose that a special privilege which was sought to be created under the colour of the Act, should be taken away. There is no curtailment of the freedom of speech of any hon. Member of this House. If hon. Members are interested into all sorts of libellous matters to be published in newspapers without the risk of prosecution, they have wholly misunderstood the scope of freedom and the limit of liberty and I think, the Bill has been rightly brought before this House

With these words, I support the Bill. I think that all the fears and apprehensions that are there in the Members' minds should stand alleyed in view of the explanation which has been given by the hon. Minister incharge of this Bill.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to strike a dissenting note. I have heard Mr. N. K. P. Salve advocating in so many terms, the adoption of 'danda democracy' as he himself described it! Mr. Salve is a very experienced elder and I want to ask him whether 'danda' goes with

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

'democracy'. He is talking in terms of contradiction. Either you want the 'danda' or you want the democracy; you cannot have both.

The Bill, on the face of it, looks harmless and the Minister tried to tell the House in so many words how and why it is harmless. But if one ponders at some depth, it will be seen that this measure is a retrograde step because instead of trying to remove the defects which have been there, he is suggesting the other extreme that the country will not know anything, just because the country should not know something which is wrong or libellous.

I do not want to speak at length on the Censor But can the Minister be honest in saying that whatever is propounded, and whatever is said here and whatever has been said during the July-August session last year and is being said now in this session, that it all goes to the Press? Do our constituents know what we are doing here and what we are saying here?

Sir, look at the Minister's own statement. I want to suggest briefly that the built-in safety-valve is there itself. The Minister himself made a reference to it in his statement, that

> "The Act of 1956 was intended to protect " etc. I am quoting
>
> "provided the publication was without malice and was for the public good."

That built-in safety valve was there in the 1956 Act. If that built-in safety valve is abused by any one of us, on either side, then we should find out a remedy to remove that abuse But the remedy cannot be the removal of the 1956 Act. The Government's charge is that—I am quoting from the Statement of Objects and Reasons:

> "The actual experience proved to be that the privilege given by the Act was misused frequently and systematically."

Why did the Government allow this to happen? Do they want me to believe and the House to believe that all this was tolerated by them and that they were so helpless in taking to task those who were responsible for serious misbehaviour, if any? That is my point. In the last paragraph of the same Statement, the Minister says:

> "The misuse of this privilege assumed extra-ordinary proportions during the last three years."

Now, Sir, I am with the Minister if he says that there was some misuse; but if he says that the misuse assumed extraordinary proportions, then, if the blame is partly of the Opposition, if the blame is partly of the Press, am I to believe that the blame is not at all of the Government, that the Government is free of all blame and the entire blame is that of the Opposition and of the Press—as if only we are talking to the gallery and the Government is talking to their conscience and to the countrymen? It is an absurd argument to make. Therefore I want to ask why was the Act of 1956 applauded so loudly and universally? The late Mr. Feroze Gandhi was then hailed as the hero, and praise was showered on him The late Mr. Feroze Gandhi was, of course, a very honourable, scholarly and learned gentleman, and he was a good friend and a warm-hearted person, as many of us knew him. We had the privilege of knowing him But, now, Sir, Feroze Gandhi is being depicted as an awkward person and a wrong individual (*Interruptions*). If you don't depict him as awkward, why repeal this Act or have this Bill? The late Feroze Gandhi was not doing it for his own sake. He was doing it as a public duty, viz, that what Parliament does

should go back to the entire country and the constituency. Parliament, any Parliament in a democracy, is a talking shop. Mr. Herbert Morrison, Deputy Prime Minister in the Atlee Government in Britain, described Parliament as a talking shop. Of course, that talking shop cannot go on talking endlessly or aimlessly, or go on talking in an abusive manner. I entirely agree with the Minister and every Member who says so. But do we come here and just talk among ourselves, for our mutual satisfaction, for our mutual consumption, or do we talk so that the country at large can listen and can listen immediately, instantaneously almost, through the Press, through radio, through television? Unfortunately, radio and television are complete departments of the Government of India. Therefore, only the Press remains as a free agency; to the extent it remains so, the press tries to portray and express the happenings and sayings of Members of this House and of the other House to the entire country. This is possible only if it can swiftly and freely communicate to the outside world what is said and done in this House and the other House. I would go further and suggest to the Minister and to all others, that a free Press is inevitably an extension of a free Parliament; if you take away the free Press, the free Parliament does not remain a free Parliament If you want a free Parliament to remain free, then you must accept simultaneously the tenet that the Press must also be free to express and portray what is happening in Parliament and what is being said in Parliament. Members of Parliament must use their privileges responsibly, just as the Members of the Press must use the same privilege which was granted to them by the 1965 Act freely and responsibly. But if the Press cannot report, portray and even comment—and comment honourably and charitably—on the proceedings here, and make our countrymen know what their representatives are doing and saying, or are not doing or not saying in this honourable House, I would not feel happy and satisfied. Moreover, the role of a Member of Parliament is not restricted to just his own constituency. The enlightened Conservative leader, Mr. Edmund Burke, in 18th Century England, was elected from Bristol, and on his triumph told his constituents—at that only men had the vote; women had no vote—something to this effect:

> "Gentlemen of Bristol, you have elected me from Bristol. I owe to you some responsibilities; I must listen to you. But when I go to London to the House of Commons, I am not a Member of Bristol. I am a Member of Parliament."

Therefore, when I talk, I do not talk merely for my own constituency, I am not talking merely for Ahmedabad, from where I have the honour of being elected, to this House. I am talking to and for the entire country, to my fellow-countrymen living from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and from Assam or Manipur or Meghalaya to Dwaraka and Saurashtra. What I am saying here, the press will report If I misuse my position here, that also the press will report and the people will know what I am doing. Afterall, the whole country is my constituency, and it should, therefore, be kept well informed of my sayings and doings here

The Minister says that our speeches can be printed, and he says that with a broad smile, because he knows what it means. Whatever freedom is given by legislation, even that is taken away by the censor that is functioning in the whole country Even in this Parliament House, censorship is being enforced. I cannot understand how a censor could occupy a place in this independent Parliament House. But

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

there sits an officials, the censor, who tells the press what to publish, and what not to publish, what to publish with bias and what not to publish without bias, what to inject and what to cut out! Yet, the Minister comes and says the press is free!

Now, assuming the censorship is temporary, I want to ask a further question. Even if our speeches can be printed by the editors, as the Minister says and assures, they will find that they will have to fight against time because they will have to glean through them late in the evening or night and decide which part of the Member's speech is right and which part is wrong and, therefore, cannot be published He will have no time, no energy and no opportunity to go through them. The result will be that nothing will go to the press, even if everything goes into the record here! The record may have everything for the future historians but people of the present generation will not know what is taking place in Parliament!

From all these angles, I oppose this Bill which is brought forward by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली): एक छोटी सी बात मैं समझना चाहता हूं। अगर एक पार्लियामेंट का सदस्य बात कहता है झूठ बोलता है बकवास करता है तो वह बात प्रोसीडिंग में छप जाती है और आपका रूल 305 यह कहता है कि अगर मैं कोई बकवास भी करता हू तो सामने वाला माननीय सदस्य खडा हो कर सफाई पेश कर सकता है और अगर कोई गैर हाजिर है और उसके मुताल्लिक वह बात कही गई है तो वह फिर मौका ले सकता है और बोल सकता है। आप कहते है कि अखबार वालों को भी मौका दिया जाए कि मैं जो कुछ कहता हूं वह सही कहता हूं या नही कहता हूं इसकी वे जा कर जांच करें और जांच करने के बाद वे पाएं कि वह सही बात है तो 499 और 500 आई०पी०सी० के अन्दर वे गुनाहगार नहीं ठहराए जाएंगे। बहुत कृपा की है आपने। वे गुनाहगार न ठहराए जाएं इसलिए वे जांच करने के बाद ही हमारे भाषण को पब्लिश कर सकेंगे। अगर वे ऐसा नहीं करते हैं तो हमें अधिकार होगा कि हम उनको प्रासीक्यूट कर सकें 500 के अन्तर्गत। जब यह एक्ट बना था तब उस में कुछ वर्डज दिए गए थे :

"Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (2), no person shall be liable to any prosecution, civil or criminal, in any court in respect of the publication in a newspaper of substantially true report of the proceedings of either House of Parliament, unless the publication is proved to have been made with malice."

अगर आदमी की नीयत खराब नहीं है तो 182 आई० पी० सी० में कोई आदमी अपना मुकदमा दायर नही करेगा। अगर मैं जानते हुए भी कोई फाल्स कम्पलेंट करता हूं, तो मुझे प्रासीक्यूट किया जा सकता है, वरना नही। यह बिल्कुल ठीक बात है कि जो अखबार वाले अपनी-अपनी भूमिका अदा न कर के कुछ अतिक्रमण करते है, उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही की जानी चाहिये। पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य जो बोलते है, चाहे इधर के हों या उधर के, उनकी बात को दुनिया समझती है। दुनिया को गुमराह करना या छलना किसी के लिये संभव नही है। भरोसा रखिये जनता पर जिसने हमें चुना है। अगर अखबार वालों को यह अधिकार नही होगा तो क्या लोगों को यह मालूम नही होगा कि उनके प्रतिनिधि पार्लियामेंट में क्या कहते हैं? आखिर लोग प्रोसीडिंगज तो पढ़ सकते हैं। समाचार पत्र वालों पर रोक लगाई जा रही है कि अगर वे कोई बात छोपेगे तो उनका प्रासीक्यूशन किया जायेगा। इस पर मेहरबानी कर के सोचिये

आज का अखबार वाला, आज का बुद्धिजीवि खतरा मोल नहीं लेना चाहता और वह उससे बचना चाहता है। वह चाहेगा कि मैं पब्लिश न करू। यह बहुत बड़ा सवाल है। आज कोई बुद्धिजीवि अखबार वाला इतनी जांच कर के क्यों प्रकाशित करेगा ? अगर वह विदआउट मैलिस करता है, अगर वह किसी तरह से मोटिवेटिड नही है, तो उसको एग्जेम्प्ट करना चाहिये। इसमें यह सशोधन करना जरूरी है।

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I thank the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate. There are certain matters which require clarification before I answer the points that hon. Members made.

Good many Members have said that whatever they say here is censored, but all of them know that censorship is a temporary phenomenon. It is not going to last for long, for ever, and most likely censorship will terminate along with the internal emergency, and then the proceednge of House or elsewhere would be published in the same manner as they used to be before the imposition of censorship. Therefore, if there is any restriction on the reporting of the proceedings of this House today, it has nothing to do with this Bill or the Act which this Bill seeks to repeal. So, whatever they may have said about the present state of reporting of Parliamentary proceedings has no relevance to the consideration of this Bill. This Bill is of far-reaching importance for our democracy, for the health of our press and for healthy deliberations in this House.

Does Mr. Mavalankar or Mr. Sequeira or any other Member who has spoken against this Bill want all kinds of unhealthy tendencies to grow? If Mr. Mavalankar makes a very successful speech, he finds only four or five lines in the newspapers, but if he makes an irresponsible speech, making all kinds of wild and irrelevant allegations against people who are present in the House or are not Members of the House, he finds a big mention in the newspapers. Does be want such things to happen all through?

Time has not stood still when the Act which we seek to repeal today was passed. It was 20 years before. After that there has been a qualitative and quantitative change in our public life, in the standards of journalism and elsewhere. What held good 20 years back does not hold good any more. We have gone for ahead in many respects and there has been, as I said, a qualitative and quantitative change in journalism as well as in the public life of our people. Whosoever is involved in scandals must be exposed. The corrupt people, may be Ministers, Members of Parliament, businessmen, industrialists or whosoever it is must be exposed. If an hon. Member of Parliament chooses to get up and gets the permission of the Chair to say that, according to the rules of procedure of this House, by all means, that can be reported. The repealment of the Act does not prevent any such reporting. I am talking of a period of normal times when the censorship is not in operation. Today nobody should cloud his argument by saying that anything can be reported. The situation is different today. When the censorship is lifted, the situation will be what we are planning for. We are planning for in this Bill a normal situation. In a normal situation, when every bit of word or thing said in the House, in the Parliament, can be reported and should be reported.

There is no inhibition:, there is no prohibition; there is no restriction on the Members of Parliament to say whatever they want to say according to the rules of procedure and subject to the rulings given by the Presiding Officer There is no prohibition no restriction, on the newspapers to report whatever comes to them from the proceedings of the Parliament.

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

How does this Bill prohibit that? How does the present Act provide for that? It does not provide for that.

As Mr. Salve very ably pointed out, there were irresponsible personal charges levelled on Members and non-Members day in and day out with malice and with political motivation and not with any motivation of public service or public good. These were played up and constructive speeches made by Opposition members, by sober people with a sense of responsibility, were blacked out. Why were they blacked out? Not because there was any restriction or there was any prohibition but the tendency was going in that manner.

When we seek to repeal this Act, this is meant to check that tendency. To day if, Mr. Mavalankar or Mr. H. N. Mukerjee or Mr. Dinen Bhattacharyya wants to expose somebody—I am talking of normal times when there will be no censorship—he will be most welcome to do that. He should do that It is his duty to do that His constituents have every right to know what he is doing. The repeal of this Act does not prevent newspapers from reporting what Mr. Bhattacharyya is saying or what Mr. Mavalankar is saying It does not prevent the newspapers from letting his constituents to know about it. The only thing that it seeks to ensure is that the immunity which the hon. Members of Parliament enjoy inside the House is not abused by the editors, printers and publishers of the newspapers all over the country in the manner in which they have been doing in the last 20 years. If our experience of the protection given to the editors, printers and publishers was happy, somebody should get up and say that this has enabled the exposition of scandals which ultimately proved true. Even today, after this Act is repealed, if any allegation is made, if any scandal is exposed which has basis and facts, that is not covered by this repealment. It can still be reported. There is no harm in publishing it. *Prima facie*, by using commonsense, by utilising their background material, anybody who is in the press world can know what looks to be correct, what appears to be correct and what does not appear to be correct.

It is all right, it is perfectly justifiable, for the Members to have full freedom to say whatever they want here, but to say that the same freedom should be given to a district yellow journal or a district yellow weekly is not at all justified, in my opinion And I would say that every Member of this House must have been subjected to this kind of yellow journalism in small places—where anything was picked out or quoted out of context, where completely wrong allegations were made or reproduced to defame or malign a Member or a supporter of a Party Here, this repeal is going to prevent such malicious and wilful defamation, and it is being done only by the common law to which all citizens of this country are subjected; it is not that specially the journalists will be subjected to that or that the newspapers will be subjected to that. Why should anybody who has got the facts in his hand and who is speaking factually worry about their non-publication? Prof. Mukerjee quoted many things that led Mr. Feroze Gandhi raised in the House I had the privilege of being a Member of this House when Mr. Feroze Gandhi was functioning here in this House; I have seen him functioning....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You were too young at that time.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We were all his supporters. We knew that, whenever he spoke in this House, he had solid facts behind him. I wish I could say the same thing about the Opposition Members here. But, with the exception of a very few, one or two, most of the Members of the Opposition—and I have said this in the Statement of Objects and Reasons—now speak purely on conjecture, purely with political motivation, not

bothering as to what is true and what is not true; they have heard something or they have been told something and immediately they make innuendoes and make all kinds of allegations....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Are they all mad?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: They are not, but they are politically motivated....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: You always claim that you speak sense and the truth, hundred per cent truth.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It is exactly this mentality that I am referring to. This is what is sought to be curbed. Nobody, on the spur of the moment, should get up and say things without knowing what he is talking about. This is not healthy for Parliament or for press or for public life in this country. Let everybody say things which have as their basis, facts, and let all those things be printed, in papers. Let all the papers and journals be subjeted to the common law of the land. We do not want the immunities of the Members of Parliament, which they enjoy only inside the House, to be extended to all and sundry who masquerade or pretend to be journalists; there are lots of people who are really not journalists but who bring out weeklies and papers just to malign certain people or for such purposes which are not strictly journalistic. This has been the bane of our public life for the last several years. Therefore, if we seek to correct the situation—because the situation has changed drastically and fundamentally—then, I do not understand why there should be such opposition to this. If the hon. Members are interested in truth, if they are interested in having a good standard in public life and a good standard in Parliamentary debates, they should not oppose this Bill. This Bill, as I have explained earlier, and which I want to reiterate, puts no bar on any Member of Parliament to say here anything which can be said according to the Rules or Procedure and with the permission of the Speaker; it puts no bar on any newspaper, howsoever—irresponsible it may be, to publish whatever they want; they can still do it....

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: After Emergency.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: After the censorship is lifted; we are talking of those days when there would be no censorship. They can publish whatever they want, but it is too much for them to claim to be equated with Members of Parliament and to ask for the same privileges and immunities which the Members enjoy inside the House. If Mr. Sequeira says something here, he will get away with it. But if he says the same thing outside the House and if he is taken on that by the person maligned or defamed, he will have to go to the court. Most likely he may be acquitted or he may be convicted. But the newspaper to-day will go scotfree. They would have no liability, no legal responsibility and have complete licence to print whatever they want and pick and choose and print whatever they wish to....

16.00 hrs.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Whatever is said here.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: That is right. I am talking of that only.

Now, you say—I do not mean 'you'—some members say rotten things in this House because that gets printed. But if it is not printed, probably, they would not say these things here and same thing *vice versa*. Some rotten things are read and then they are repeated here and then they are sought to be propagated through the forum of this hon. House, which is very unhealthy. Therefore, when we have brought forward this Bill, it is with the intention to see that regarding hon.

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

Members who speak with a sense of responsibility, who discharge their duty honestly and fearlessly, there is no bar on that. There is no bar of any kind on anybody. But the only bar that comes is on the irresponsible section of the Press and that bar can only be exercised through the forum of the law courts and not arbitrarily by the government. This Bill does not give any additional power to the government. This Bill does not seek to give any extra legal powers to anybody. It only says that the aggrieved party is allowed to go before a court in the country, right from the District Court to the Supreme Court, to vindicate his honour if he thinks that his honour has been compromised in some way by some irresponsible allegations made against him and printed and published and circulated by the newspapers. This is the limited purview of this Amendment Bill.

Shri Virendra Agarwal spoke absolutely irrelevant things. He spoke all the time against censorship and he also surprisingly quoted Jawaharlal Nehru and what Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1930 against the British Government. For Mr. Virendra Agarwala, the government of free India and the British government have no difference. Therefore, I do not want to waste the time of the House in replying to his arguments....

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Will he be allowed to migrate to Britain?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA. In conclusion, I want to again reassure the hon. Members that neither the privileges of this House nor the privileges of the Members of this House are going to be affected by the repeal of this Act. The privileges of the newspaper journalists are not going to be affected by this amendment or the repeal. The only people who will be affected are those who are interested in spreading rumours, those who are interested in giving rise or giving currency to false allegations, false scandals which have no basis in fact and those who are interested in sensational reporting and saying things sensational which have no basis in fact.

Prof. Mukerjee spoke rather sentimentally. He spoke very ably and he quoted what Mr. Feroze Gandhi has said. All right. But would he not concede that in these 20 years there has been a tremendous amount of change? He has been a member of this House for a long time..

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Changes for worse?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have heard him speaking and throwing his hands in anguish saying, 'What has happened to this Parliament? What is it that is happening?' It is not the fault of the leadership of the House or of the Speaker or the Members of the Opposition or the members of this side, but the tendency that was growing the tendency that was being fanned and the tendency that was being helped all the time by certain irresponsible sections of the Press which was interested in spreading falsehood, which includes the monopoly press and this is a curb on such irresponsible tendencies. There is nothing more than that Hon Member like Shri H. N. Mukherjee chose to oppose, certainly on sentimental grounds and not on the grounds of reasons. Sentimentality has its own place and it has its own respectability. But this repealment is not going to inhibit any Member of Parliament. It is not going to damage our public life. On the other hand, as things stand, and as things are bound to grow in future, this is going to help healthy journalism, this is going to help healthy debates in Parliament and all round it is going to be helpful to those people who are interested in the future of democracy and who want to stand in democracy

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA Mr. Chairman, I share the anxiety of the Government that the floor of

this House should not be misused for slander. With your permission I would like to resurrect for the records of this House the letter that lies unrepealed on the record of Mr. Speaker. This is a letter which I wrote to him in my first or second year in this House. In that letter I said to him, if I remember correctly that I have the loudest lungs in this House and if you force me I will use them. But please do not penalise me for being well-behaved and as a result of that letter Mr. Speaker, Shri Sanjiva Reddy, in his wisdom decided to use his red pencil. Every time my name came in the list and every time I had to wait for Mr. Khadilkar to take the Chair to enable me to speak in this House. This is not that Government alone has been concerned about what was happening in this House. I have no quarrel whatsoever with the objective of the Government if their objective is at all sincere. My only difference of opinion is that while Government is trying to achieve their objective, to my mind then being reasons other than what are stated in this House by the hon. Minister, Government is trying to achieve that objective by putting curbs on the press. I would like to say that the objective may be achieved by self control by all of us in this House. Does the dignity of the House increase in any manner if the slander continues in the Chamber, what is not correct to the people. How does it help? It is here that the slander must be stopped. Let me say one thing and we must admit that whenever it has come, it has not been only from one side of the House. It has come from all sides.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Out of frustration also.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: I am glad that the hon. Minister, when he was speaking, chose the example of my father. I can assure you that that example went home, but not in the direction he wanted? I think it went in the opposite direction. Many allegations, precisely of the kind he is talking about, were raised against my father. Let me say something that the man who has led a kind of examplary public life does not require the protection of any libel law to defend himself, because the people will always judge the good leader by what he is and what they see and not by what slander is thrown against him. This is the position with reference to the leadership in this House. Let me ask you something.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN (South Delhi): Many things are publicised against them.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: This is how I think I have survived them for some reason because my people judge me by what they know of me and not by what anybody says. This is how they will judge Mr. Shukla and the Prime Minister.

We will judge them by their performance or non-performance in office. This is what we feel. It is because Government is not prepared to face the people that they are coming with all kinds of grilling powers; they are running away from people; if they go and face an election they cannot come to Government again. If we go, we will be the Government. The hon. Minister was asking why there was special privilege to the press with reference to parliamentary proceedings which was not available to the common citizen of this country. With your permission, I will give the answer. The reason why the privilege exists is this. This House only becomes meaningful when a balanced presentation of what happens here is carried to the people immediately. This House becomes, to the extent that these feelings are not expressed through the press redundant. That is why our predecessors had extended this facility to the Press that no motives could be imputed. They did

[Shri Erasmo De Sequeira]

not extend it even to the Member himself, for example, when the member publishes his own speech But they extended it to the Press for a true report of the entire proceedings of the House I would like to submit to Mr Shukla that whether it is normal times or otherwise, such a report should be made immediately available to the people through the Press Sir, if we were to go by the assurance that we receive in this House I would have had no difficulty in accepting what the Minister has said But there is a wide gap between what he says to us in the House and what is actually done by the Government There is a gap sometimes between what is said yesterday and what is said today, what is said in the morning and what is said in the afternoon From what I read in the newspapers this morning, I have got the clear impression that Mr Shukla has said that there was no restriction on the publication of the proceedings of Parliament In his intervention in the House in the morning it has become clear that this thing only applies to the period after the emergency

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA I have always said so

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA On the one side we are told that there is no bar. On the other hand we find this restriction Please see this Order No 2/147/75-CC dated the 4th January, 1976 of the Chief Censor which says

> "Reports relating to the proceedings of the 15th Session of Fifth Lok Sabha, 1976."

—which is this one—

> 'shall be submitted for scrutiny and shall not be published without permission in writing.'

This is from the Chief Censor who has put this restrictions This shows the extent to which this House is separated from the people. There is this big difference between us and the Government We want them to go to the people and they are not prepared to do it. They know what the result will be That is the reason

The hon Minister gave an example of what happened before It is true, there have been occasions when bombastic statements were published and constructive speeches were not given publicity I have often faced a similar situation I am going to bring to his attention a situation which existed before the emergency and even today There have been instances where backbenchers have made constructive speeches, but they are not published, whereas 5 column and 3 column headlines are given to all kinds of gibberish said by the Ministers Take an example Mr Shukla said in his reply just now that except perhaps one or two of us in the opposition, the rest of us had no facts to back up what we were saying This, Sir, is slander on the opposition I am going to bet with you five de-valued rupees that tomorrow morning the newspapers will carry what he said and it will not carry what I said today

THE MINISTER OF WARKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH) Sir, on a point of order Is it permissible for him to make a bid with the Chair like this?

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA· If he wants to say something he must quote the rules He has never read them Sir, much more than any restriction in what is being said in Parliament, I submit, the time has come in this country, to introduce the concept of "equal time"—the concept which exists, either by convention or in some cases by law, in most other democratic countries

that whenever Government leader comes forward with a statement the Opposition is given equal time to state its point of view. This would be in consonance with the principle that in all cases it is the people who must ultimately judge.

Sir, Mr Shukla found no distinction between British Government of India and this Government. I would like to find a distinction because this is my Government and that was not. But unfortunately the one distinction that I find is that the British had somewhere to withdraw but this Government does not appear to withdraw. If they insist on continuing beyond their term—as they seem hell-bent on doing—then, I am afraid, the fight is going to be much more intense and much longer than the fight of this country for freedom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"This House disapproves of the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 25 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975"

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up clause by clause consideration. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Twenty-sixth"

substitute "Twenty-Seventh" (1)

(*Shri Vidya Charan Shukla*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, although the Bill is going to be passed a fervent appeal was made by my hon. friend, Shri H. N. Mukherjee to the Government to reconsider the matter. Sir, I am making a last—although futile—appeal because the hon. Minister said that many things have changed during the last 20 years. Yes, many things have changed. I know, Sir, when I joined this House I had black hair and now my hair have grown grey. Things will change but we have to see whether the change is for better or for the worse. Sir, I happen to know Feroze Gandhi since 1957 when I was a Member of this House and even earlier when I was not a Member of this House. Sir, I used to watch the proceedings of this House from the galleries and I had seen his performance.

I feel that he really considered all the aspects and brought forward this

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Bill. The people sitting on the Treasury Benches were giants—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Maulana Azad and others. Such people are born perhaps once in a century. This Bill was passed when such giants were there on the Treasury Benches. I appeal to the hon. Minister and through him to the Prime Minister. Let us not pass this Bill today. I appeal to the Prime Minister not because she is the wife of Shri Feroze Gandhi, but because she is the daughter of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was a party to this Bill being passed.

I am not trying to defend the press if they want to reduce themselves to yellow journalism. I have always been against the jute press. I am one of those who demanded delinking and diffusion of press ownership and I still stand by it. By passing this Bill, we are not going to achieve anything except giving one more handle to the right reactionaries in the country to say that the freedom of the press is being taken away. So, please reconsider the whole matter. Don't have the final voting today. You will surely win; there is no question about it. But this should be reconsidered in the light of the observations made by those whom I consider to be abler than me I again make a fervent appeal to the hon. Minister to hold it over.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Those in favour may say 'Aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those against may say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Ayes have it; the Ayes have it. The Bill is passed.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: It is on record that you are in the Chair and this Bill has been passed.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Noes have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I proceed to the next item No. 22 Mr. Sequeira.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I said, the Noes have it.

AN HON. MEMBER: You said it too softly!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear it.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: I want to go on record that the same minute you said "The Ayes have it", I said, "The Noes have it." I have been shouting continuously that the Noes have it Please look into the record and hear the tape also.

MR CHAIRMAN: As far as I can understand, I said, "The Ayes have it; the Ayes have it." No protest came and I passed on to the next item.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: On a point of order, Sir. When you said, "The Ayes have it", I immediately said, "The Noes have it". If you did not choose to hear it, what can I do? It is my right to ask for a division

SHRI H. N. MUKHERJEE: Every Chairman has conceded the right of even a single member to challenge a division.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is, the right of any member to say 'No' and challenge the announcement made by the Chair is not disputed. As far as the Chair is concerned, I said, "The Ayes have it; the Ayes have it" and I said, "The Bill is passed." In the meanwhile, now you say that you said "No". I did not hear it. Once I have announced that the Bill is passed, that is the end of the matter. I have passed on to the next item. The next item will proceed.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: If you did not hear me and if I say that I said "The Noes have it", you do not take me for my word?

MR. CHAIRMAN: After I have announced that the Bill is passed, I passed on to the next item.

SHRI H N MUKHERJEE· Can a Chair turn its deaf ear to all the other people? Is it not lack of alertness on the part of the Chair? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR: You can just go through the records, I said, 'noes' have it

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a completely accepted principle that what has happened in the House, the Chair is the final judge. Here I repeat for the sake of the record that I said, ayes have it. I waited for some time and I did not hear anyone saying noes have it At that moment, I said that the Bill is passed and then I passed on to the next item After Mr Sequeira stood up, then Mr Mavalankar said that noes have it

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR· With great respect to you, Mr Chairman, I said at once that noes have it Why do you deny me this right, because I am alone? Tape-recording also will show that I said, "noes have it" immediately (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN Never after next item.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE. On a point of order. When this question was raised by Mr. Mavalankar, I think, we should have also said that noes have it. Now, you said that you did not deny that he had used that word but you did not hear. Now, we are not concerned with the hearing power of the Chairman. The question is that since he has said so. the benefit of doubt goes to him. (*Interruptions*) Let us hear the tape

MR CHAIRMAN: It is not the question of harmful but it is the question of procedure. Now, a motion is put to the House the Chair has to decide whether the House has accepted the motion or not. There are certain stages stipulated in the rules. The Chair is directed to call for ayes and noes and the Chair has to go by the will of the House and the Chair will announce that After I said, ayes have it. I waited for some time, and then I said the Bill is passed. In the meanwhile, I did not hear as far as I know and I stand by it any member saying noes have it The Bill has been passed and we have moved on to the next item. So, that is the end of the matter No Rules of Procedure can give me the power to re-open the matter.

Now, Mr. Sequeira will move his Resolution

16.30 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER ORDINANCE, 1975 AND PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER BILL

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA (Marmagoa): I beg to move:

> "This House disapproves of the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable matter Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 28 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975."

What has happened in the House now is very unusual. Mr. Chairman, I have had the privilege to be in this House for nine years. Never have I

[Shri Erasmo De Sequeira]

seen anything as has hapened just before this item of business This is what makes us more and more doubtful about whether what Government is saying in this House is what it means Mr Shukla and I have had to-day, by some quirk of fate, a long innings in this House My complaint on all the three things that have come before this House is that the Government have not been plain-speaking This Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Ordinance that came forward is a very major piece of legislation And again I must protest about its having been brought forward by an ordinance, because as the hon Minister had said just a little while earlier in this House, Government has already acquired for itself the power of censorship which is current, and, therefore, nothing can go into the newspapers unless the Government passes it In these circumstances, when the Government already has power to prevent the publication of anything what is the need for coming forward with an ordinance? Do they not realize to what extent they are embarrassing the President by forcing us to come to the House and saying things like this? The President's office is the highest office in the land We all respect him If you force us to come forward and say things like this, are you not detracting from the importance that he has? Look at the clauses of the bill which is now coming before us The definition of what is an objectionable matter is so wide that you can start with a needle and end with an elephant The worst thing about this is, "Who will decide whether something is objectionable or not?" It is an officer of the Central Government not below the rank of a Deputy-Secretary It is not even the Government who will decide but one single officer sitting in judgement over the free Press Angola is very much in the news these days, and if you have read the proceedings of the Anti-Colonial Committees of the United Nations, you will find that the one thing that was referred to again and again in those proceedings was a thing which was called a system of *indigena*. That was a system in which the judicial system was operated by administrative officers, and the conclusion was that it was against the rights of man to have such a system And here we talk about better standards for the Press, we talk about improving our free Press Then we give an administrative officer personally the right to sit along over what should be published and what should not be published This is not delegation of responsibility but this is abrogation of responsibility

16.35 hrs

[Shri Ishaque Sambhali *in the Chair*]

If the Government had come forward to this House and brought this Bill forward and said that we shall make a complaint to the Press Council and then we shall decide it, I would have no quarrel with it, if they had created Press Council in every State I would have no quarrel with it if they had created some kind of authority, autonomous of the Government I would have no quarrel with it What I quarrel with is the fact that in almost every measure that Government comes forward with it wants to be the accuser the judge and the jury, all rolled into one indivisible whole

The Prime Minister made a statement that even if the elections were postponed they will be held within a year or earlier if I read the newspapers right this morning We are today in a climate where whatever the Government says is disseminated to the country and whatever is said by the opposition remains where it is said In this situation what is the point of coming forward with the statement that elections are going to be held? By what are the people going to judge the other side? What do you want the other parties to do?

How are they to talk to the people? If we ask for permission for a public meeting, it is denied. If we ask for a hall meeting, that is also denied If we issue a statement, that is not published. Leaflet is not allowed to be printed.... (*Interruptions*). That applies only to one side. That is our quarrel. If you want to keep this country off politics for six months, normally I would have accepted it. If you had imposed restrictions on all political parties, I would have accepted it. But if the restriction is on opposition alone, it is nothing but an advance towards fascism. I do not want to tell you the theories of this—it is well known.

Whenever you want a change from a representative system, from democracy, to autocracy the first pillar that you pull down, the first leg that you cut off is the press, because that is practically the only means, or the largest means, that exist in society for a community to judge the performance of its elected representatives.

If Government wants that discipline should become a way of life in this country, if Government wants that violence should find no place in a democratic society, then Government must also accept that dissent has an honourable place, as the original proposition, because minus the play of two ideas before the people, minus the debate, minus the discussion, democracy has no meaning and we will be going back to the old days. I wish I knew some Latin. There is a saying that Rome has spoken and the rest of the world shall follow. We do not want Rome in this country; we do not want "follow the leader concept", either on that side of the House or on this side of the House

It is not a happy day when from morning to evening one has to stand up in this House and protest against the manner in which step by step, obviously under some kind of a master plan, one by one....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Slowly.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: Not slowly, rather fast, the structures, the organs of the free society are being first muzzled, then destroyed I realise that the chances of this Government meeting with success in what it is obviously trying to do to the democratic institutions of this country, which is to destroy them, are rather slim, but what I am saying is that they could save all this trouble, all this acrimony and all this suffering by doing only one thing, on the 18th March, when their mandate is over, by going before the people to seek a fresh mandate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved:

"This House disapproves of the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 28 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 8th December, 1975."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill provide against the printing and publication of incitement to crime and other objectionable matter, be taken into consideration."

As the House is well aware, this enactment and its need were felt a little after our independence was gained. In 1951 this hon. House had considered a measure of this kind. It was not exactly on the same lines, but in substance it was similar, and this House made it into a law. The reason why it was made into a law was very

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

ably put to the House by the then Home Minister, Shri Rajagopalachari. He said that if this kind of activity, the objectionable matters that were being printed in the papers, were not put a stop to, very soon it would be necessary for the Union Government to send units of the army and the para-military force to every district of the nation. This was the position at that time, and this incitement was being caused by the publication of an kinds of rumours and all kinds of false things and there was hardly any control or any penal provision for punishing those people who were responsible for spreading such rumours and publishing such anti-national matter which created a threat to the security of the nation or to peace and tranquillity in public life.

This Bill happened to be moved by one those who stood for maximum freedom, Shri Rajagopalachari, and the relevance of it was well borne out by the support that he got. When the Press Commission considered the situation of the press they made an observation that although they did not oppose the law, they would rather have all these provisions of law implemented in a voluntary manner and, therefore, they suggested the creation of a Press Council which should regulate the functioning of the press by compiling a case law over a period of time and, as was stated earlier when I moved the other Bill by evolving or building up a code of ethics or code of conduct for the press.

We had a wishful thinking that the Press Council and the connected matters would be such that the tone of the press, the tone and the tenor of the working of those people who were interested in creating violence, creating hatred and creating a feeling of disaffection amongst the various language groups, amongst the various regional groups in various regions of the country, will be curbed, that their designs will be frustrated, and that they will not be able to play foul with the nation with the help of the press. All these ideas, all these hopes, have been shattered by what we saw subsequently. When this law was repealed in 1957, great hopes were put on the Press Council. We have discussed earlier in the day how all those hopes were belied and the Press Council not only proved ineffective but it appeared that unless the provision was properly made in the law of the land to punish people and prevent such objectionable writings, we will not be able to run our country or protect democracy and keep it in the healthy state. Therefore, it was decided to bring forward the Bill before the House and to see that the nightmare that we have passed through is not repeated.

I must make it clear that this has nothing to do with the Emergency provisions that are in operation today. It has nothing to do with the censorship. It is only meant to fortify those people who believe in self- discipline. As I stated earlier, the Committee of Editors and the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference have already evolved a code of ethics or you may like to call it a code of conduct. Any newspaper or any journalist who abides by the code of conduct or by the code of ethics will have nothing to fear from this Bill which I have brought before the House. Those people who believe in healthy journalism, those people who believe in constructive criticism, those people who believe that the press is an integral part of democracy, that the health of democracy depends upon the health of the press and the health of the press depends upon the health of democracy, they will definitely support this measure.

As I said, those people who practise journalism for the sake of journalism for the sake of the country, to ensure the growth of healthy tendencies in society will not object to this Bill. If you go through the entire ambit of the Bill that I have brought forward before the House, you will see that it provides for punishment to such people who print such things which are all to do with the crimes in the law of the land. These various things which have been defined as objectionable are already in the statute books of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Indian Penal Code and other laws that have been passed by this Parliament. The only thing that this Bill seeks to achieve is to see that these offences are made applicable to printed matter in such a way that not only these things can be prevented in advance but also such people who give currency to this kind of offences or abet these offences are also punished in a quick manner.

I would point out the various provisions of this Bill to Mr. Sequeira. He can easily see that very many safeguards have been provided against misuse of the provisions of this Bill Firstly, the competent authority cannot be a lower functionary of the Government; he has to be a Deputy Secretary or higher than that or a District Magistrate or higher than that; and such officer, who is duly nominated under the provisions of this Bill to be a competent authority, also cannot take any action unless the reporting officer makes a report to him. This is the safeguard provided, so that everybody does not go and make a report and the competent authority takes action on this.

We have also provided in the Bill that, even though a notice of action may have been issued, the Central Government, which is the next appellate authority, can *sue motu* abrogate or cancel that notice or action—that is, by itself, without any appeal being made to them. And whenever any appeal is made to them, it is provided that, within a short time, a time of 14 days or so, the appeal must be disposed of by the Central Government, and if it is not so disposed of, it will be deemed to have succeeded; that is to say, if the Central Government does not take cognizance of the appeal and decide it within the time limit set in the law, the appeal of the appellant would be deemed to have succeeded, and the order would be set aside automatically. This is the provision that has been made to secure that there is no harassment by keeping the appeal pending for a long time.

Again, after this provision, if the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the action of the Central Government, he can go to the High Court or Supreme Court, appeals are provided for to the judicial forum, he can go there and prove that the action taken was *mala fide*, was not correct, and therefore, it should be set aside Therefore you would see that we have taken the greatest care to ensure that there is no misuse of the provisions of this Bill.

This Bill is meant only to import health into our public life and in journalism. It is not meant to stifle or gag or punish them or to instil any fear in them. Therefore, the fears that the hon. Member expressed are quite unjustified.

Mr Sequeira was also very keen to find out why we have put a government servant as the deciding authority to decide whether the action should be taken or not. This is a well-accepted principle of democracy that whosoever acts in whatever manner, the ultimate responsibility and answerability is that of the Ministers who

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

are answerable to this House. Whether it is Deputy Secretary or Joint Secretary or Secretary to Government or any other functionary of the Government, the vicarious and direct responsibility is mine in case I am the administrative authority of this particular Act. Therefore, irrespective of who the person is who will take action I must take the responsibility for that action; in case there is any fault or any thing *mala fide*, I may be punished for that, and I will have to accept the full responsibility for that.

The provision that has been made here is only to ensure that the powers under this Bill are not delegated down the line to very small functionaries, tehsildars or naib tehsildars; no such officer can use these powers which are supposed to be used after due deliberation and great deal of caution, this is just a safeguard so that the action cannot percolate below this level of officialdom Whatever action is taken, the ultimate responsibility and answerability of the Government to this House will remain completely undiminished. It is just not going to be diminished by this provision. There is no restriction to the Opposition also because this is applicable to anybody. Suppose some newspaper in a State which is not ruled by a ruling party in another State or the Centre violates the provisions of this Act, that certainly is actionable under the provisions of this Act and the same thing will happen in any other State or at the Centre. Therefore, to say that this is pointed towards the Opposition is not only fallacious. . .

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: But it is motivated.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: But is also motivated and is also trying to misread the entire provision. You can have a look at it and you will find that if the opposition acts all the time spreading hatred and contempt and causes disaffection against the government established by law and then it says, 'not only in India but in any of the States thereof and thereby cause to tend to create public disorder' then such elements are to be controlled whether they belong to the opposition party or belong to any other party and if somebody incites any person to interfere with the production, supply and distribution of food or any other essential commodity or essential services, certainly we will have to take action against him. I want to dispel the doubt which might arise in Mr. S. M. Banerjee's mind or in the minds of those people who are connected with the trade union movement that this particular provision might be used against the working class. This is not correct and this is not a good impression because the people who are interested in the working class movement or who want to promote the interests of the working class are not the ones who create disturbances or difficulties or incite people in production and supply and distribution of food and other essential commodities or esential services. It is limited only to essential commodities and essential services. This by no means can be construed to prohibit or inhibit genuine or *bona fide* trade unions movements for which there are other laws which are directly applicable to such situation. This is only applicable to such situations where the life of the society is sought to be disrupted for reasons other than the interests of the trade union or interests of the working class. So, we have number of instances in this country where there had been, spurious attempts and wrong attempts to interfere with the life of the community by organizing *bandhs* for various reasons, for reasons which are not connected with the life or working of the working class people

and the social and economic life of the country is sought to be disrupted by such attempts which are politically motivated and they were inotivated to create confussion and chaos in the country.

Therefore, while I am moving this motion I want to give an assurance that this provision that has been made in the objectionable matter is not meant to be used against *bona fide* and genuine working class movements and activities.

You will see the third objectionable matter that we have defined in this Bill is 'seduce any member of the armed force or the forces charged with the maintenance of public order from his allegiance or duty or prejudice the recruiting of persons to serve in any such force or prejudice the discipline of any such force. This is certainly an objectionable matter and anybody who does this requires to be controlled. I do not think Mr. Sequeira can take objection to this thing either.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA: I said 'false seductions'.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Member. I am sure he has read it. I want him again to remember while he gives his opinion. The other objectionable matter that we have defined is—

> "to promote disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities;"

If this is supposed to be against the Opposition, there must be something really wrong with the Opposition. This is against any community which wants to create disorder and chaos in the country. Why does someone want to misread it? It does not look very clear to me as to why you want to mis-read such a clear provision, such a definition in the Bill that I have brought forward.

The next one is—

> "to cause fear or alarm to the public or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquility;"

The next one is—

> "to incite any person or any class or community of persons to commit murder, mischief or any other offence;"

Now I come to a provision where some objection may be taken by the hon. Members of the Opposition. Here it says:—

> "are defamatory of the President of India, the Vice President of India, the Prime Minister or any other member of the Council of Ministers of the Union, the Speaker of the House of the People or the Governor of a State;"

As is well known, the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court have their own regulation provided in the Contempt of Court Act. We have not put the Judges of the Supreme Court or the High Court in this matter. Two other persons who by the very nature of their duties become vulnerable to such attacks have to be given some protection, not in the private capacity but in the capacity of the office they hold. While they are holding that office, they have to do certain things which may not be popular with some sections of the society, some sections in the nation, and, therefore, they may take action which may not only defy dignity of that office but it might create a great deal of difficulty in the way of the persons who for the time being hold these high offi-

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

ces and, therefore, protection against defamation of such people is absolutely necessary.

The next provision says—

"grossly indecement, or are scurrilous or obscene or intended for blackmail."

I do not think any of the Opposition Members are interested in black mailing us but if anybody is there in the country, I am sure hon. Members will not like to encourage such people and see that those sections which are interested in importing indecency or are scurrilous or are obsence in the public life or those who want to use public organs or printed matters for blackmailing are not encouraged and such people are brought into the ambit of this Bill. Now, I will bring to the attention of this House the provisions which we have made so that the justified and bona *fide* criticism is not stifled, is not stopped. The provisions of this Bill says—

"Comments expressing disapprobation or criticism of any law or of any policy or administrative action of the Government with a view to obtain its alteration or redress by lawful means, and words pointing out with a view to their removal by lawful means, matters which are producing, or have a tendency to produce disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, shall not be deemed to be objectionable matter within the meaning of this section."

So, Sir, it is very clear that this should not be objectionable. This would enable anybody to have redress of his grievance against individual Government officers or Ministers or anybody else or in respect of change of policies or remove them by lawful means, if there are matters which are producing results which are against the very national ethos which we are trying to preserve.

Then, Sir, there is this second explanation which we have added to this Bill. This gives an absolutely clear picture of the whole thing. I quote:

"Explanation II.—In considering whether any mater is objectionable matter under this Act, the effect of the words, signs or visible representations, and not the intention of the keeper of the press or the publisher or editor of the newspaper or newssheet, as the case may be, shall be taken into account."

It is very necessary that the case is not prolonged indefinitely, and it does not get bogged down in legal niceties. There must be clear-cut decision on all such matters. The court should have the power to decide on the merits of each case whether this thing comes under the mischief of this Act or wthether it does not. We have provided various things. I thought that at the stage of moving the Consideration Motion I must make the intention of the Government clear that this is neither going to act as a deterrent to the opposition nor it is going to cause any difficulties for normal public life. It is only in respect of abnormal activities (which have been listed here) that this will apply, if somebody flares up communal feelings, feelings on account of language and other things. In such cases this Act will certainly be used but in a proper and careful manner. This will ensure that public life of the country is maintained dignified and decent level and does not sink down and does not go into the hands of those groups of people who always incite the baser instincts in the people in the name of religion, or language or region or racial group, or anything of this kind, which we have seen for the last 20 years happening in this country and which forced the Government in the early fifties to bring this matter.

Again a situation has now come when we must put such a law on the Statute-book. And let us hope that the gentlemen of the Press will abide by the Code of Conduct or the Code of Ethics drawn up by their Editors themselves. If you again have a look at the Code of Conduct drawn up, it would look absolutely similar to this. And therefore,if the code of conduct avolved by the editors themselves is followed by the press, there will be no need for this to come into operation, as far as they are concerned. Sir, this Bill which I have brought forward, has been brought only to strengthen democracy and the forces of democracy, it is meant only against those people who are against our national life, those who have ulterior motives or *mala fide* motives who want to destroy the unity of the country, and to bring in this country, all kinds of unhealthy tendencies which we have all resolved to prevent.

I request the House to give its approval to this Bill which I have brought here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide against the printing and publication of incitement to crime and other objectionable matter, be taken into consideration."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 4th March, 1976." (1)

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Tellicherry): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide against the printing and publication of incitement to crime and other objectionable matter, be referred to a Select Committe consisting of 12 members, namely:—

Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya, Shri Tridib Chaudhuri, Smt. Roza Vidyadhar Deshpande, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, Shri Saroj Mukherjee, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Shri Vasant Sathe, Shri Shashi Bhushan, Shri Ramavatar Shastri, and Shri C. K. Chandrappan.

with instructions to report by the 1st April, 1976." (12)

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी : सभापति महोदय, मै सिर्फ पांच मिनट बोलना चाहता हूं ।

सभापति महोदय: आपको मालूम है आज ठीक 6 बजे शुगरकेन प्राइस पर डिस्कशन शुरु हो जायेगा, इसलिए आपको शार्ट करना पड़ेगा ।

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी . सभापति महोदय, मैंने मूव किया है कि इस बिल को जनता की राय जानने के लिए प्रचारित किया जाये और 4 मार्च 1976 को सदन में वापिस लाया जाये । आज हमारे लोगों ने इस पर कुछ अमेंन्डमेन्ट्स दिए है । जब मैं इस बिल को पढ़ता हूं तो मुझे याद आता है अंग्रेजी के जमाने में कुछ रोक लगाई गई थी और उस रोक को लगाये जाने के बाद 1951 में राजाजी यह बिल लाये थे । हम आशा करते थे कि उस के बन जाने के बाद सारी जिम्मेदारी प्रैस कौन्सिल को दे दी जायगी लेकिन आज यह काला कानून हमारे सामने लाया गया है । मैं दो चीजें पढना चाहता हूं—एक तो 1931 में वाइसराय के समय में जो कानून पास हुआ था, वह और दूसरा आज जो बिल लाया गया है—मैं इन दोनों का कम्पेरिजन करना चाहता हूं । उस वक्त क्या आब्जैक्शने बिल था —

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

"to bring into hatred or contempt His Majesty or the Government established by law in British India or the administration of justice in British India or any class or section of his Majesty's subjects in British India, or to excite disaffection towards His Majesty or the said Government".

यह उस वक्त था और आज का यह है —

"bring into hatred or contempt, or excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India or in any State thereof and thereby cause or tend to cause public disorder;".

मैं आप को दिखाना चाहता था कि उस वक्त अंग्रेज सिर्फ काले हिन्दुस्तानियों से ही नहीं डरते थे, बल्कि वे अपने साये से भी डरते थे। इसीलिये उन्होंने यह कानून बनाया था। वे नहीं चाहते थे कि उनकी रैयत, उन के खुशामन्द पसन्द लोगों पर कोई एक्शन लिया जाय। वे नहीं चाहते थे कि कोई विद्रोह हो या किसी तरीके से उन के राज्य को चुनौती दी जाय। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूं आज इस सरकार को क्या डर है। वे लोग जो मिलिट्री और पुलिस को रिवोल्ट करने के लिये आवाहन दे रहे थे और तरह तरह के भाषण दे रहे थे— क्या वे कामयाब हुए? क्या वाकई में वर्किंग क्लाश, मेहनतकश मजदूरों ने उन प्रतिक्रिया वादियों की कोई बात मानी। तो फिर इस बिल की आज क्या जरूरत आ गई? प्रधान मंत्री, राष्ट्रपति, उप-राष्ट्रपति, स्पीकर के खिलाफ यहां पर कोई डेरोगेटरी रिमार्क्स नहीं कहे जा सकते, अगर बचे है तो सिर्फ डिप्टी स्पीकर या चेयरमैन साहब—आप। अगर कोई गैर जिम्मेदारी की बातें आज भी पब्लिश करे तो उन के खिलाफ एक्शन ले सकते है, इण्डियन पीनल कोड, सी० आर० पी० सी० और दूसरे प्रैस के कानून है जिन के अन्तर्गत एक्शन हो सकता है। तो फिर आज इस बिल की क्या जरूरत है। वायसराय के जमाने में जो कानून था, उस को आज यहां पर लाना—जो कि ब्रिटिश इम्पीरियलिज्म की लिगेसी थी —कहां तक मुनासिब कहा जा सकता है। आज इस देश की वामपंथी शक्तियों ने इस चीज को साबित कर के दिखला दिया है कि प्रतिक्रियावादी शक्तियों, जहां से भी वे उठें, वहीं पर उन को कुचला जा सकता है। आप मजदूरों, किसानों और मेहनतकश अवाम पर विश्वास कीजिये। अगर आप को विश्वास होगा तो इस कानून को पास करने की कोई जरूरत नहीं रहेगी।

अगर आप कानून पास करना चाहते हैं तो उन तमाम लोगों को, चाहे वे वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स् हों, नान–वर्किंग जर्नलिस्ट्स् हो, वे चाहे किसानों के रिप्रैजन्टेटिव्ज हों या पोलिटीकल पार्टीज से सम्बध रखते हों, वे कोई भी हों, उन को मौका दीजिये कि उन की ओपीनियन का सर्कुलेशन हो सके जनता के सामने उन की ओपीनियन जाये—ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये कि कि इस बिल को यहां ला कर दो घन्टे में पास कर दिया जाय।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have moved that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. This is one of the darkest Bills that Government has introduced in the House. It confers draconian powers on the Government. If this is passed in spite of the promises made by the minister, it will go against the democratic practices existing in the country. This Bill says:

"The expression 'objectional matter' means any word sign or visible representation bringing into hatred or contempt or excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India or in any State thereof and thereby cause or tend to cause public disorder."

The Minister has explained that this is to provide against public disorder, but it is for the courts to interpret what it means. It can be interpreted in such a way that even an election manifesto cannot be published. We would like to replace this government by another government in a democratic manner not by inciting the people on the street. We have a democratic right in this country to appeal to the people to reject this government. To convince the people, we will have to criticise the policies of this government, expose where it has committed mistakes, etc., and convince the people that a democratic alternative should be found. If this Bill is passed the publication of even a notice, a poster, a visual expression, even a cartoon will be called into question and the people will be prevented from doing it. This goes against the grain of democracy.

The minister said, "We will not do anything against the working class." If you read the clause even casually, it says:

> "incite any person to interfere with production, supply or distribution of food and other essential commodities or with essential services."

The minister sermonises that those who are doing good work among the working class will not incite the working class to hamper production. I do not know in which world we are living. Today the working class has got the inalienable right to go on strike if their rights are questioned. According to this Bill, a trade union cannot appeal to the workers to fight for bonus or question the ordinance regarding bonus issued by the Government, because even a poster, any visual expression or even a cartoon can be called into question. That is the impact that the Bill will have on the people.

Sir, I do not think it was very casual. The words used here in section 3, sub-clause (a) (vi) are, 'incite any person or class', What do they mean? Cannot we incite a class to overthrow the other class? Yes, we will do that. Let it be clear to everybody that even after this Bill is enacted into law by this House, the exploited class in this country who are fighting exploitation, who are fighting capitalism, will incite the working class, will over-throw the rule of capitalism. We believe in class struggle and without class struggle, you cannot reach the goal of socialist society.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: By lawful means you can do but not by violence.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: What is this violence? Again interpretation. You have gone into this clause with a motive. Even a factual news report will be considered by this Government incitement. I can cite an example. Suppose, your Police shoot down a student and if that fact causes strike everywhere, then the Government will say that the report of the fact was an incitment. If a worker is arrested, if the General Secretary of a political party is arrested and if that fact is reported that the General Secretary of a political party is arrested, the party-men will be worried about and they may go for action. The Government will say that this is an incitement. There are so many instances. This is one of the blackest legislations this House will have to enact into a law. That is what the Government is trying to move for. So many Complicated matters are there which go against the democratic principles. That is why it will not be harmful to send this Bill to the Select Committee. Now when I say select committee, Government will come with an argument that within six months this ordinance should be promulgated. I say, let it be rushed through the Select Committee stage within shortest possible time. Everbody should have the opportunity to come and represent his case and

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

that will give more substance and the Bill will become more meaningful.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे: (राजनंदगांव) : सदर मोहतरिम, हर मेम्बर, जो अमनपरस्त है, जो अमन से वाबस्ता है, वह इस बिल का खैर-मुकद्दम जरूर करेगा। 26 वर्ष की तारीख हमारें सामने हैं। इस सदन के इजलास के भीतर और बाहर क्या हंगामे हुए, उस की भी तस्वीर हमारे सामने है। कोई खुशी की बात नही है कि हम इस बात को कहे मगर क्यों ऐसी बातें करते हो जिस से हाउस की शान घटें, क्यों गालिया देते हो जिससे नफरत पैदा हो, क्यों सदन में हंगामे करते हो जिस से काम में रुकावट आए, क्यों ऐसी गलत बातें करते हो जिस की बुनियाद न हो और क्यों ऐसी आग लगाने की बात करते हो, जिस को बनाया नही और जलाना चाहते हो। यह जो सिलसिला चला था इससे दिल और दिमाग खराब हो रहे थे, निरंतर घृणा, गुस्सा, अलगाव, झगडे तशद्दुद का एक ऐसा आलम इस मुल्क में पैदा कर दिया गया था—

श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य (सीरमपुर) : अपोजीशन के मैम्बर को बुलाया जाना चाहिये था ?

सभापति महोदय : दो बोल चुके हैं।

श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य : वह तो एमेडमेंट पर बोलले हैं।

सभापति महोदय : प्लीज।

श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य : प्लीज के क्या माने हैं।

सभापति महोदय : सिट डाउन। स्पीकर को पूरा राइट है कि जिस को चाहे वह मौका दे। श्री दिनेन भट्टाचार्य, आप तो पढ़े लिखे इंसान हैं और आपको तो प्लीज को पढ़ना चाहिये। जो भी इस चैयर पर होगा वह स्पीकर का काम करेगा। पांडे जी चाहते थे कि उनको मौका मिल जाय और मैंने यह मुनासिब समझा कि उनको मौका दे दिया जाए तो कोई हर्ज नहीं है।

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : मैं आपकी खिदमत मे अर्ज कर रहा था कि इस बिल के जरिये हम ने एक नया मोड़ देने की कोशिश की है और हमने आगाह किया है उन लोगों को जिन्होने जनता की जिन्दगी को दूभर कर कर दिया था और एक ऐसे माहौल में लाकर खड़ा कर दिया था कि यह फैसला करना मुश्किल था कि इसका हल क्या होगा। राम लीला मैदान की तकरीरे तो आपने सुनी ही होंगी। वहां क्या नही कहा गया। जैसे श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल जी ने कहा गांधी जी भी हर आन्दोलन के पीछे कानून की इज्जत की बात किया करते थे और कहा करते थे कि आजादी लेने के लिए सत्याग्रह करना हमारा हक है, हर किसी का हक है लेकिन आपको याद होगा कि जितने भी आन्दोलन उन्होंने चलाए उन आन्दोलनों की वजह से अगर हिसा भडकी तो उन्होने उसको तुरन्त बन्द कर दिया। चौराचोरी काड की बात तो आपको याद ही होगी। जो लीडर कहलाए जाते हैं वे बड़े जोश खरोश के साथ रामलीला मैदान में घेराव करने की बात कहा करते थे, कहा करते थे कि प्राइम मनिस्टिर को घर से बहार निकलने मत दो, इसकी आज्ञा उनको मत दो, गाड़ी का पहिया रोक दो, चक्का बन्द कर दो, शासन के पहिये को चलने मत दो, किसी कर्मचारी को काम पर जाने मत दो। पीलू मोदी यहां नही हैं, जहां भी वह हों, खुश हों, सेहत उनकी अच्छी रहे। एक प्रतिपक्ष का वीकली पेपर यहां पर है, जिस ने मैम्बरों के मुतालिक पता नहीं क्या-क्या लिखा। घंदे, घड़े, झूठे, झूठे बेबुनियाद किस्म के आक्षेप, लंछनों से भरे हुए आक्षेप उसने मैम्बरों पर लगाए, अपने ही

झूंह से कालिख पोतने की कोशिश उसने की। क्या कुछ इन्होंने नहीं किया है। क्या मैम्बरों के बारें में ऐसे अखबारों को आरोप करने की इजाजत दी जानी चाहिये? यहां इस सदन में क्या नहीं कहा गया है। यहां तक इसकी तस्वीर को बिगाड़ कर पेश किया गया कि ऐसा लगता था कि भारत में कोई सच्चा आदमी ही नही है, ईमानदार आदमी ही नहीं है। पालिटिशन्ज पर जिस तरह से कीचड़ उछाला जाता था आए दिन गालिया दी जाती थी, कारेक्टर एसेसिनेशन किया जाता था, वह सब आपसे छिपा नही है। एक जमाना था जब दिल्ली मे लोग बाहर जाते थे तो यहां की बातों को सुन कर अपने बच्चों के लिए एक पैगाम ले कर जाते थे और बडी खुशी के साथ अपने बच्चों को इसकी कहानी सुनाते थे। लेकिन पीछे हालत यह हो गई थी कि आप सोच भी नही सकते है। वे जा कर अपनी बहनों, माताओं बच्चो को बता नही सकते थे कि उन्होने यहा क्या सुना है। यहा क्या नही कहा गया? पिग कहा गया, भड़आ कहा गया गुडा कहा, चोर कहा, बदमाश कहा, यह सब कुछ कहा गया। क्या आप समझते है कि इससे माननीय सदस्यो की या इस सदन की खूबसूरती बढी है? चुनाव के वक्त हम लोगो ने क्या नही देखा? जनसघ के कार्यकर्ता कैसे-कैसे नारे गढते थे? इसी तरह बहुत आपत्तिजनक पोस्टर भी निकाले जाते थे। चुनाव के समय बम्बई की एक दीवार पर मैंने खुद एक पोस्टर देखा जिसमे हमारी लीडर श्रीमती इंदिरा गाधी को गाय काटते हुए और खून टपकते हुए दिखाया गया। अगर यह भडकाने की बात नही है तो क्या है? यह सारी लच्चर और गलत बातें कही जाती थी।

यहां पर अगर यह बिल न लाया गया होता तो बहुत कुछ और बातें भी हो सकती थी लेकिन इस बिल के माध्यम से देश के जीवन को एक नया मोड़ देना चाहते थे। इस देश की जनता को तहजीब, अखलाक, शांति और अमन और सभ्यता की दिशा मे ले जाना चाहते थे। आखिर स्वराज्य को लाने का उद्देश्य यह था कि इस देश में कुछ ऐसे समाज की रचना की जाये, जिसमे सभी को यह अहसास हो कि हम एक स्वतंत्र देश के नागरिक है, हम लोकतंत्र के नागरिक है, हमारी इज्जत पर कोई आच नही आयेगी। लेकिन लोगो की इज्जत पर भी आच आई। कुछ लोग यह समझने लगे थे कि जैसे देश मे कोई सरकार ही नही है। उन्होने इतनी आजादी लेना शुरु कर दिया था।

करेक्टर एसेसिनेशन के द्वारा देश मे एक ऐसा अजीबोगरीब माहोल पैदा कर दिया गया था कि जैसे यहा कोई अच्छा, शुद्ध, चरित्रवान आदमी नही है। लेकिन जो लोग यह बाते कहते थे, अगर वे अपना मुह अपने गिरेबान मे डालकर देखते कि वे खुद क्या है, तो शायद उनको सही जवाब मिल गया होता।

मै समझता हू कि इस मुल्क का हरेक अमन-पसन्द इंसान इस बिल का खैर-मकदम करेगा, स्वागत करेगा और कहेगा कि श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल ने यह बिल लाकर देश को अमन, शांति, तहजीब और अखलाक का रास्ता दिखलाया है। इस बिल के माध्यम से हम अपने बच्चो को आदर्श नागरिक बनायेंगे, 20-सूत्री कार्यक्रम को कार्यान्वित करेंगे और अपने गणतंत्र को अक्षुण्ण रखने के लिए हमने जो सपथ ली थी, उसको पूरा करेंगे।

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE (Katwa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, having abrogated the Feroze Gandhi Act and throwing to the winds the valuable

[Shri Saroj Mukherjee]

recommendations of the Press Commission, advising Parliament and the Government to repeal the Rajaji Act, the Minister has brought forward the old Act in a more pernicious and more draconian form. That is why I oppose the Bill from A to Z, and I would appeal to my colleagues to reject the Bill lock, stock and barrel.

After the promulgation of the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Ordinance, there was enough discussion in the press, among the working journalists and intellectuals. Nobody supported this. Even those who were supporters of the Government, even those who were supporters of the emergency measures of Indiraji, are opposed to this Ordinance and the subsequent Bill. The Blitz correspondents who were the supporters of the measures of Indiraji, cannot even support these measures. A correspondent writes in Blitz: "The position of those of us who have been the consistent supporters of the Prime Minister's policy since 1969 right through the emergency, has been very embarrassing. When we face the next critic, we are bound to feel shamefaced and forced to stay silent, Guilty silence." None of the working journalist has supported this ordnance or this Bill. Journalists' associations and working journajournalists have sent resolutions to the MPs as well as the Government to withdraw this Bill, but Government does not listen to them. In spite of the assurances given by Shuklaji and the safeguards mentioned by him, this reaction goes on that anything and everything printed in a press, in a hand bill or a leaflet form, can be interpreted as objectionable matter.

Actually, there is enough scope under the ordinary law, under the IPC and the Cr. P.C. to deal with the matters mentioned here in the definition of objectionable matter and there is no need to resurrect this old Act of Rajaji. This is more draconian than the 1930 Press Act promulgated by the British rulers. In the 1951 Act there was provision that a sessions judge had to decide the amount of security or imposition of security on the press and journals, but here the district magistrate has been given such power. What will be the effect of this Bill when enacted on the ordinary workers, peasants and people? If the workers want to go on a strike to redress their demands and want to publish a leaflet to focus attention on their demands, the press will not take it up. Because of this Act, nobody will dare publish any pamphlet or leaflet drafted by the trade union workers or peasants, and the journalists will not be able to write in the newspapers. All sections of the people will be attacked as a result of this Act.

This is why we say that the Government is on a drive towards authoritarian rule. This is protection for the President, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers, not for the prevention of publication of objectionable matter. This protection must not be there.

Freedom of the press is the corner stone of our democracy and has to be strengthened, but it is being gagged systematically since the proclamation of the emergency. The reaction to this Bill has been adverse not only at home but also abroad. I am not talking of the reaction of the vested interests or the ruling circles of America or Britain, but of the common people there who are pursuing parliamentary democracy. Even those in America and Britain who supported the emergency measures of Indiraji do not support this law. They don't support the press-gag. This I got from some of my friends who recently came from America and other places.

The other day Indiraji was talking of some British Lord who said to her something about restriction of the press there during the state of alarm and despondency. I studied that legislation also, but compared to this, that is nothing, very flimsy, and insignificant restriction on Press. Nothing can be published in this country if this law is enated. Parliamentary democracy may differ in its styles and methods in various countries, but there are certain essential features, common to all.

All students of political science and those who are in politics are observing the functioning of parliamentary democracies of the 20th century. The salient features are very well known to the mall. Even if the models, styles and methods differ from country to country, the essential features are there. There are three or four essential features. One is that the party which is eleted with majority rules the country, the second is that however small the Opposition may be, it has equal importance and weightage, the third is that the judiciary is to arbitrate between legislature and the executive and, the fourth is: seven freedoms are guaranteed including that no person can be detained without trial. But the central point of all these features is the freedom of the press.

Here, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Shukla Ji and the other Ministers of the Cabinet, the Government, are lashing against the press day in and day out. As if the Press is the villain of the piece. What have they done? They are attacking the press day in and day out.

The other day, I glanced through old files certain English newspapers and I found that 80 per cent of the newspaper reportes, articles, news, etc. contained the speeches and statements of Government spokesmen and their reports. Only 15 per cent of it was Opposition news and that too in a distorted manner. Now, since emergency, nothing comes out of the Opposition. So far as our party is concerned, every now and then, the distorted news comes out in the press. Sometimes, they contradict it and sometimes they do not do it. But we do not say that the freedom of the press should be curtailed. We are really believers in parliamentary democracy. The Government today wants to destroy democracy. They want to curb parliamentary democracy. They want to destroy the fredom of the press. The step that you are taking now will come as a boomerang against you. One day you must realise that. You are suppressing the freedom of the press.

What do the working journalists and the editors do? Some big newspapers, some big press magnates, have reconciled to your censorship, to your restrictions, because their interests are similar to your interests. You are serving their interests. That is why the working journalists very aptly put it that the Government has made them martyrs of convenience. The big press, the big monopoly press structure, is continuing. You are maintaining that. They are reconciled. The working journalists cannot hide anything. What do they do? They reflect the real situation of the country. They reflect in their writing the socio-economic conditions obtained in the country. That is reflected in the newspapers. Whatever you say, that is published. Whatever we say, that is also published. And the people will judge. Because the Press barons have reconciled to the censorship, now-a-days, only the Government statements, Government speeches, are being published. Whatever the Opposition says is not published. The Opposition has got no place in the press.

[Shri Saroj Mukerjee]

Now, you are curtailing the freedom of the press. It shows your weakness, not strength. You have got no strength in your arguments. That is why you do not want any Opposition speeches to be published in the press. You are censoring the news like anything.

I know, my party paper *Gana Shakti* in Calcutta, *Deshabhimani* in Kerala and other papers everyday have to submit all the manuscripts from A to Z for pre-censorship. Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Shukla everyday say that self-censorship has been introduced. That is for the big press; that is for the monopoly press, not for the small and medium papers. They have to submit all their material for pre-censorship. When the Bill is enacted, all the press will be afraid. They will get panicky because thousands of rupees will have to paid as security. The printing presses will be seized. Even during the British period, no such action was taken against the press. You are now opening the flood gates of repression against the press, the printing press and the journalism. This must stop.

With these words, I say, this Bill should be withdrawn. It should be rejected lock, stock and barrel. Nobody can support such a Bill.

श्री श्री० आर० गुप्त (बहराइच): सभापति जी, यह निर्विवाद सत्य है कि रोग का इलाज करने की अपेक्षा रोग का निवारण करने के लिए उपाय करना बेहतर है। लोक तंत्र में प्रैस की आजादी एक बड़ी बहुमूल्य अधिकार है अगर प्रैस की आजादी खत्म कर दी जाय तो लोक तंत्र के सफल तरीके से चलने में बड़ी बाधाएं उपस्थित होती हैं। लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह भी मानना होगा कि प्रैस की आजादी का अगर दुरुपयोग किया जाता है तो लोक तंत्र के लिए सब से बड़ा खतरा इस बेजा इस्तेमाल से होगा। इसलिए प्रैस की स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक सिद्धांत को मानते हुए यह भी मानना होगा कि प्रैस की आजादी के ऊपर वह मुनासिब पाबन्दियां लगाई जायें जिस की वजह से देश में दंगे फसाद न हों, देश की आजादी को खतरा न हो। कोई प्रेस अगर देश की अखण्डता के खिलाफ प्रचार करता है, देश की अक्षुण्णता के खिलाफ प्रचार करता है या देश की सुरक्षा के खिलाफ प्रचार करता है या देश में भाषा धर्म और प्रान्तीयता के आधार पर दंगे फसाद करने का प्रचार करता है या कल कारखानों में ऐसा प्रचार करना चाहता है जिस के जरिए से पैदावार के ऊपर बेजा असर पड़े, या कोई मानहानि की चीजें प्रकाशित करते हैं तो ऐसे समाचार पत्रों के ऊपर पाबन्दी लगाना आवश्यक है (व्यवधान)....

अब सवाल यह है कि इस बिल में क्या प्रावधान किया गया है। इस बिल के अन्तर्गत एक सक्षम अधिकारी की नियुक्ति होगी सक्षम अधिकारी की हैसियत सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी से कम की हैसियत नहीं होगी। स्टेट में जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट होगा उन हैसियत का अधिकारी सक्षम अधिकारी होगा। जब सक्षम अधिकारी को यह इत्मीनान हो जाय कि कोई अखबार इस तरह की आपत्तिजनक बातों का प्रकाशन करता है या करने वाला है या कर रहा है तो उस को एक नोटिस दी जाएगी कि आप इस बात का स्पष्टीकरण करें कि आप जमानत क्यों न दाखिल करें। यह जरुरी नहीं है कि उन से जमानत ले ही ली जाय। उन को वार्निंग दे कर भी छोड़ा जा सकता है। उस के बाद अगर जमानत ली गई तो उस जमानत के आर्डर के खिलाफ कोपर आफ दि प्रैस, सम्पादक प्रकाशक सब लोग सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपना

रप्रेजेन्टेशन कर सकते हैं और उस के खिलाफ कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं । अब अगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट उन की बात को नहीं मानती है या उन की अपील का फैसला नहीं करती है या वह सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के आर्डर को भी स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, वे समझते हैं कि उन के साथ अन्याय हुआ है, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का फैसला न्यायपूर्ण और तर्कसंगत नहीं है तो उन को यह अधिकार दिया गया है इस बिल में कि हाई कोर्ट में जा कर वे अपनी अपील करें । तो अन्ततोगत्वा यह नोटिस उन को जमानत दाखिल करने के लिए दी गई है । अगर उन का अखबार जब्त कर लिया गया है तो उसके खिलाफ मामले की सुनवाई सर्वोच्च न्यायालय या उच्च न्यायालय में हो सकती है । ..(व्यवधान) ...

दूसरी बात यह है कि जिन को नोटिस दी गई है और नोटिस देने के बाद उन का प्रैस बन्द कर दिया गया है फिर भी वे अनधिकृत ढंग से प्रैस को चलाना चाहते हैं तो उन के खिलाफ जुडिशियल मैजिस्ट्रेट जिसका दर्जा फर्स्ट क्लास का होगा के यहां कम्प्लेंट दाखिल होगी । उस कम्प्लेंट की सुनवाई उसी तरह से होगी जैसे फौजदारी के किसी मुकदमे की होती है । इस लिए काफी अहतियात बरतने की कोशिश की गई है, ऐसा नहीं है—जैसा कुछ सदस्यों ने फरमाया है कि आन्तरिक सुरक्षा नियम में बगैर कोई कारण दिखाये हुए, आधार दिखाए हुए, मनमाने ढंग से बन्द कर दिया जाता है । यह तो एक टेम्परैरी मंजर है ।

लेकिन एक बात, चेयरमैन साहब, आप की इजाजत से कहना चाहूंगा—इस में यह प्रावधान भी किया गया है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर, राष्ट्रपति, उपराष्ट्रपति, अध्यक्ष (लोकसभा) तथा जो केन्द्रीय मंत्री मंडल के सदस्य हैं, उन के खिलाफ भी अगर कोई मानहानि वाली चीज छपी है तो उस के खिलाफ भी कार्यवाही इस कानून के अन्तर्गत की जा सकती है । इस सम्बन्ध में मैंने एक संशोधन दिया है—इतना तो ठीक है कि राष्ट्रपति, प्रधान मंत्री, उपराष्ट्रपति और अध्यक्ष (लोकसभा)—यानी आप जिस कुर्सी पर बैठे हुए हैं, इस की मान-मार्यादा की रक्षा करना राष्ट्र के हित में है । लेकिन मैं बड़े अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री मंडल के जो अन्य सदस्य हैं—डिप्टी मिनिस्टर हैं, स्टेट मिनिस्टर हैं—इन सब के मुआमलात को भी इस के तेहत लाया जाय, मेरी नाकिस राय में यह बात नहीं आती है । अब सेठी साहब को ही लीजिए चीफ मिनिस्टर थे, उन का केस इस में नहीं आयेगा, लेकिन जब यहां पर आ गये या दूसरी कुर्सी पर बैठ गये तो इस में आ गये । बहुत से मिनिस्टर साहबान हैं, बड़ी इज्जत रखते हैं, इत्तिफाक से मिनिस्टर नहीं रह गये, हम लोगों के साथ बैठ गये, तो उन का मामला इस कानून के अन्तर्गत नहीं आयेगा—तो मैं ऐसा महसूस करता हूं कि जब यह मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट या हाई कोर्ट में जायगा तो यह कहा जायगा—यह इन्टेलिजेन्ट-डिफेन्सिया नहीं है, यह एक ऐसा भेदभाव है जो कानून की कसौटी पर रुक नहीं सकता है । इस लिए मैं समझता हूं कि इस के ऊपर हमारे मंत्री महोदय, जो इस बिल के इन्चार्ज हैं, वे इस पर पुनः विचार करें और इस में जहां मंत्री मंडल के सदस्यों के नामों को जोड़ दिया गया है उस हिस्से को निकालें ताकि यह कानून की कसौटी पर रुक सके ।

जहां तक तोड़फोड़ की कार्यवाहियों का ताल्लुक है—आप से छिपा नहीं है—जहां तक यह कहा गया है कि मजदूरों के आन्दोलन इस बिल से होंगे, वे प्रभावित होंगे, जो लोग गवर्नमेंट की पालीसी की आलोचना करते हैं, वे भी इस के तेहत आजायेंगे—मैं समझता हूं कि यह शंका बिलकुल बेबुनियाद है, निराधार है, क्योंकि इस में एक्सपलेनेशन दिया हुआ है

[श्री बी० आर० शुक्ल]

कि गवर्नमेंट की नीतियों को, गवर्नमेंट के कामों को, गवर्नमेंट के कानून को बदलने के लिए अगर किसी किस्म की समालोचना की जाती है या गवर्नमेंट का कानून के द्वारा बदलने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है तो वह इस के अन्तर्गत नहीं आता है।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

17.54 hrs.

Re. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I have an announcement to make.

Some hon. Members this side as well as that side told me that it would be desirable to have the discussion set down to-day under Rule 193 on some other day rather than at the fag end of today I consulted the Opposition leaders. Now it is agreed that it will not be taken up to-day but it will be taken up on the 5th February if possible after the government business is over and if for any reason, the government business is not over on that day, then we will have to sit on the 6th also for this and also for such of the government business as may be left over on the 5th. If we are sitting on the 6th, 6th being a Friday, only the government business will be taken and also this discussion, and no other private member's business.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे (गोरखपुर): चेयरमेन साहब, इस बारे में मेरा निवेदन यह है कि माननीय संसदीय मंत्री जी ने जो विचार रखा है वह ठीक विचार है। इस के लिए पूरा एक दिन का डिस्कशन चाहिए जैसा कि आप चाहते हैं और जैसा कि सदन के इस ओर के और उधर के सदस्य चाहते हैं, लेकिन इस बीच में चेयरमैन साहब, मैं एक निवेदन आप से करना चाहता हूं, और यहां पर खाद्य मंत्री श्री शाह नवाज खां भी बैठे हुए हैं, कि यू० पी० में गन्ने के किसानों को गन्नों का दाम नहीं मिल रहा है। इस बारे में आज ही प्रधान मंत्री जी के साथ, यू० पी० के पार्लियामेंट के मम्बरों की और उस में माननीय मुख्य मंत्री भी थे, जो बातचीत हुई उसमें यही कहा गया था कि हम चाहते हैं कि इस के बारे में पहल करें जिस से कम से कम कैन-प्राइस का मूल्य तो तय हो जाए।

इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां तक इस प्रश्न का सवाल है, इस का सम्बन्ध पूरी शूगरकेन पालिसी से है। यह केवल केन-प्राइस का सवाल नहीं है। हर साल शूगर केन का एरियर बाकी रह जाता है। इसलिए पूरी शूगर पालिसी का मैटर इस में इन्वाल्व्ड है। मैं चाहता हूं कि अगर किसी भी तरीके से कैन-प्राइस का मामला हल कर दिया जाता है, तो भी इस डिस्कशन को पोस्टपोन न किया जाए।

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: As for the time, it will be discussed by the Business Advisory Committee if it has not already done so. Whatever the Business Advisory Committee decides, will be adhered to.

6.01 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER ORDINANCE, 1975 AND PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER BILL— *contd.*

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): To-day we have had something like a triple tragedy because of Government's attempting to bring up legislation in regard to the Press Council and in regard to the Prevention of Objectionable Matters

सभापति महोदय : माननीय सदस्य अब अपना भाषण अगले दिन जारी रखें।

6.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, January 29, 1976/Magha 9, 1897 (Saka).

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